

BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



July, 1947

Official Notices to Members

1948 CONVENTION REFERENDUM
SUGGESTED GUIDE TO BUILDING PROCEDURE

Public and Professional Relations

REPLY TO MR. KOCH • PAN AMERICAN CONGRESS LEGISLATIVE NOTES

Education and Research

BUILDING TYPE STUDY—LIBRARIES
THE MODULAR HOUSE • TECHNICAL NEWS

BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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Where Shall We Have The 1948 Convention?

PLEASE EXECUTE AND RETURN THE ATTACHED BALLOT

To the Members of
The American Institute of Architects:

The Board of Directors, at its meeting in Grand Rapids, voted to hold the 1948 Convention as a convention cruise between New York and Bermuda—*provided* steamship accommodations would be available.

Since this is a radical departure from our custom and since a question has arisen, subsequent to the last meeting of The Board, as to the advisability of having a convention cruise in 1948 because of the expense to members and delegates from the mid-west and far-west sections of the country, it seems to me that a final decision in this matter should be made in the light of the opinion of the entire membership. With the concurrence of the other members of The Board, the following convention possibilities are submitted for the consideration and vote of *every* corporate member—whether or not he plans to attend the 1948 Convention.

Convention Cruise—Between New York and Bermuda

Negotiations are pending with the Holland-America Line to charter the S. S. NIEUW AMSTERDAM, a large and modern ship entirely adequate for convention purposes. It must be kept in mind that so far—because of post-war conditions—the steamship company has not made a final commitment as to the availability of the NIEUW AMSTERDAM or the rates which will prevail. If and when a commitment is made by The Institute—by September 1st at the latest—it also must make a substantial deposit on account of the total reservations needed—hence the importance of serious answers to this poll.

The tentative sailing date is May 1—from New York—returning on May 6.

The approximate total expense for the entire six days for each person—for stateroom, meals, etc., will range from \$135 to \$250, with an approximate average of \$175. There will be sufficient accommodations of the various types and rates to give a wide choice to the individual.

The convention sessions and the annual dinner would be held on board ship. Approximately two days will be required enroute to Bermuda, two days there for sightseeing, and two days returning to New York.

Members of The Institute will have first choice

of all accommodations and any space remaining unsold after a certain date will be made available to the general public.

Pre-convention meetings of The Board, of other societies and groups, and the seminars would be held in New York in advance of the sailing date.

Denver, Colorado

The Colorado Chapter and the public officials of the State have extended a cordial invitation to The Institute to hold the 1948 Convention in Denver.

The hotels in Denver cannot accommodate an Institute convention in June. Through the Denver Convention and Visitors Bureau a total of 160 single rooms and 270 double rooms—all that will be available—has been reserved *tentatively* for Convention dates on May 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1948. These reservations would be divided among the following hotels: The Brown-Palace; The Cosmopolitan; The Shirley-Savoy; and The Albany. If additional single rooms are needed, they may be available in smaller hotels.

Room rates in the above named hotels, European plan, will range from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per day for single rooms, and from \$4.50 to \$8.80 per day for double rooms.

Denver is centrally located, with respect to rail and plane transportation. Customary rates for meals, incidentals, and convention tours will prevail.

Pre-convention meetings of other societies and groups would be held as heretofore. The seminars may be made an integral part of a four-day convention program.

Salt Lake City, Utah

The Utah Chapter and the Salt Lake City Convention Bureau have extended a cordial invitation to The Institute to hold the 1948 Convention in Salt Lake City.

The dates available are for a week beginning on June 21, with the probability that a four-day convention, including seminars, would start on Tuesday, June 22. Pre-convention meetings of other societies and groups would be held as heretofore.

Assurance is given by the Convention Bureau of Salt Lake City that 500 rooms will be available in good hotels, and that it will act as housing bureau for overflow reservations. A large part of all reser-

vations would be made in the Utah and Newhouse hotels, with daily rates ranging upward from \$4 for single rooms and from \$6 for double rooms—all European plan.

Like Denver, Salt Lake City is well located with respect to rail and plane transportation. Customary rates for meals, incidentals and convention tours will prevail.

Murray Bay, Canada

The Manoir Richelieu Hotel in Murray Bay, Canada, will be available during the last week of June. The rates at the hotel are not separately quoted, since the proposal under consideration is in the nature of a convention tour with special trains leaving New York on or about June 22, arriving in Montreal on June 23 and departing on the evening of the same day via Canada Steamship Lines for Murray Bay.

The proposed tour includes all train and steamship transportation, meals, hotel accommodations, transfers, sightseeing, and all taxes. The rate from New York per person, sharing a double room at the hotel, and returning to New York on June 28, is \$127.50. There will be a limited number of single rooms at the hotel at the tour rate of \$135 per person. All rates are based on lower berths on train, and minimum price double staterooms on steamer. Rates for

superior accommodations will be at slightly additional costs.

It is probable that a special train may be scheduled from and returning to Chicago—at approximately the same cost per person.

Meetings of The Board, of other societies and groups, and the seminars would be held in New York in advance of the departure date.

The above details are tentative, and the best that can be stated at the present time.

There is no commitment involved

It should be understood that under no circumstances will the member who returns a ballot be committed in any way—financially or otherwise. The purpose is to secure a cross-section of Institute opinion and to determine who of the membership would plan to go on the convention cruise, or to Denver, or to Salt Lake City, or to Murray Bay—as the case may be.

Please detach the ballot, execute it and mail it to The Secretary of The Institute at The Octagon—to reach there *not later than September 1*. A final decision will be made shortly after that date—for announcement in the September number of the BULLETIN.

DOUGLAS WILLIAM ORR
President.

PREFERENCE BALLOT ON 1948 CONVENTION

TO THE SECRETARY, THE A.I.A.

1741 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

My first, second, third and fourth choices for the 1948 Convention are indicated below.

(For example—if your first choice is Murray Bay, insert the figure "1" under that title, then insert "2" under the appropriate title to show your second choice, and likewise for third and fourth choices.)

CONVENTION CRUISE TO BERMUDA	DENVER, COLORADO	SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH	MURRAY BAY, CANADA

In addition to the above indication of choices, please act on *each* of the following eight items:

BERMUDA—If a convention cruise is decided upon, I would (would not) expect to attend.

I would expect to bring other persons (not A.I.A. members.)

DENVER—If a convention is held here, I would (would not) expect to attend.

I would expect to bring other persons (not A.I.A. members.)

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH—If a convention is held here, I would (would not) expect to attend.

I would expect to bring other persons (not A.I.A. members.)

MURRAY BAY, CANADA—If this tour is arranged, I would (would not) expect to attend.

I would expect to bring other persons (not A.I.A. members.)

The above is *not* a commitment—financial or otherwise. (If Bermuda or Murray Bay is selected definite reservations, with accompanying deposits, will be required on or before February 1, 1948).

(NAME)

(ADDRESS)

(CHAPTER)

A Suggested Guide to Bidding Procedure

To the Members of
The American Institute of Architects:

At the last meeting of The Board of Directors of The Institute in Grand Rapids, consideration was given to "A Suggested Guide to Bidding Procedure," developed by the Committee on Contract Documents.

The Board directed that the draft be submitted to the membership in the BULLETIN, with a call for comment and criticism; and that in the light of responses received, a revision of the first draft be submitted to The Executive Committee for review and authorization to publish in final form.

Therefore, the draft which follows—entitled "A Suggested Guide to Bidding Procedure," is submitted for your comment. It is *not* a final draft and the Committee on Contract Documents will welcome

and desires individual suggestions for its improvement.

The present text is the result of many suggestions received by the members of the Committee, through a limited distribution of an earlier draft. There is strong sentiment in favor of issuing some such "Guide," and this draft is compatible with the large majority of the comments received. It can still be improved, and it is hoped that many members will assist the Committee in doing so.

Please send your comments to the undersigned at the address given and at an early date—certainly *not later than September 1.*

WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER, *Chairman*
Committee on Contract Documents, A.I.A.
120 Boylston St.
Boston, Mass.

A SUGGESTED GUIDE TO BIDDING PROCEDURE

Recommended practice for use in private work when competitive lump sum bids are requested. Also applicable in public work so far as requirements of public authorities permit.

Foreword

The customary practice of buying construction service through competition is one of long standing. Until owners and architects are prepared to determine the proper cost of the project and select the contractor who is best qualified to execute it, very likely it will continue. Its merit is that such competition forces the contractor to be constantly on the alert in search of new methods and more efficient operation.

To eliminate waste and establish a friendly spirit of cooperation between the contracting parties and the architect, and to obtain other objectives, the following procedure is offered as a guide. It is believed that the best interest of the architectural profession will be furthered if its members will adhere to this procedure, and that if contractors and subcontractors will decline to submit bids when it is ignored, they will further their own interests, the interests of the architect and the public.

The owner has a right to expect, when bids are tendered, that the architect has used due diligence, reasonable skill and good business judgment so that he is assured that the accepted contractor will deliver to him everything needed to complete a building,

adequate for the purpose intended, without friction, misunderstanding, or unexpected cost.

The contractors have a right to expect that the information shown on the drawings and specifications is sufficient to enable them to prepare a complete and accurate estimate, and that they will not be penalized for a lack of care or skill in the preparation of these documents.

The Standard A.I.A. Form of Agreement and General Conditions (latest edition) should be used in all contracts, with such additional general and special conditions as each contract may require. They are drafted with careful regard to the rights and responsibilities of both parties and the appropriate duties and powers of the architect. They aim to establish a national standard. When local conditions, either physical, legal or climatic, require adjustments of the standard clauses, they should be made by the architect.

I. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

(a) So far as required by the nature of the project, a plot plan should be prepared which shows the correct topography of the surface, existing structures to be removed, sufficient borings and sub-grade

surveys to indicate clearly underground conditions, and adequate information concerning utilities.

(b) The contractor is entitled to assume that the architect has described in the specifications any unusual stipulations bearing on the conduct of the work which would affect the cost. (See Art 11 of the A.I.A. General Conditions.)

(c) Article 10 of the A.I.A. General Conditions makes it desirable for the contractor, when estimating, to give consideration to any costs that may be involved for royalties and license fees for which he will be responsible.

II. DRAWINGS

(a) The drawings must be clear, accurate and adequately dimensioned.

(b) In indicating materials and their use, nationally accepted standard symbols should be employed.

(c) Construction sections and large scale details sufficient for intelligent bidding should be shown with the general drawings. This is particularly important when the size of a project makes necessary the preparation of the general drawings at a scale less than $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'0''$.

(d) When necessary for clear indication of mechanical trades they should be embodied on separate sets of drawings.

III. SPECIFICATIONS

(a) The specifications should be complete, clear and concise with adequate description of the various classes of work segregated under the proper sections and headings.

(b) Each section and heading should be identified for easy reference.

(c) Allowances which are to be carried by the General Contractor should be grouped in a separate section called Allowances. Allowances which are to be carried by subcontractors should be clearly indicated in the sections of the specifications involved.

(d) Standard trade terms for materials and processes should be used.

(e) The use of the term "or equal", in an attempt to establish a so-called "open" specification, frequently results in uncertainty and misunderstanding and should be avoided. This can be done in the following ways:

(1) By specifying the particular material desired.

(2) By specifying two or more materials any one of which is acceptable, the choice being left to the bidder, to be designated in his bid. (See also IV (f).)

(f) Article 29 of the A.I.A. General Conditions makes standard provision for fire insurance, maintained and paid for by the owner. Bidders should include the cost of any fire insurance protection they desire, not covered by Article 29 or by other special provisions of the specifications.

(g) If the time of completion is of the essence of the contract, the architect should set a completion date, and each bidder should provide in his bid all cost necessary to complete the project by the time stated. If sufficiently important a liquidated damage clause may be included.

IV. BIDDING

(a) Bidders should be limited to contractors of established skill, integrity and responsibility, and of proved competence for work of the character and size involved. They should be selected by the architect or by means of an adequate method of prequalification.

(b) Adequate price competition will generally be obtained from six bidders. If an owner insists on inviting an excessive number of bidders he will create an unreasonable burden of expense and should agree to pay each bidder a reasonable fee for his service.

(c) Each bidder who is invited to figure on the work should be furnished, free of charge, one set of the drawings and specifications. In some cases where bidding time is short or the work is complicated it may be to the owner's interest to provide an additional set. The bidder should be allowed to retain this set or sets until the contract has been let, or until he is definitely out of the competition. If a bidder desires additional sets for preparing his bid, the architect should provide them to him at cost. It is proper to require a deposit from each bidder to be refunded to him upon return of the documents in good condition.

(d) A standard form of proposal, or bid blank, should be prepared by the architect for each project, and furnished to each bidder.

(e) Bids which are not submitted on the standard form of proposal should be rejected.

(f) Alternates should be requested only where they are believed to be of special importance to the owner, either as a means of insuring a bid within a limited appropriation or providing an opportunity to make an important determination in the selection of a material or process. In the latter case the following procedures are appropriate:

(1) Two or more materials may be specified from which the owner desires opportunity to make a selection, in which case the bids shall be based on a particular material specified and alternates submitted, with the base bid, stating the changes in price involved for the alternate materials. The award of the contract should be according to the base bid.

(2) Opportunity may be provided for bidders to offer for consideration with the base bid, substitutions of other materials for those specified indicating any changes in price involved. Acceptance of any such substitution shall be at the option of the owner. The award of the contract should be according to the base bid.

(g) A reasonable time should be allowed for preparing bids. In general this should be not less than ten days. In large or complicated work from two to three weeks may be desirable.

(h) Bids should be delivered at a designated place and not later than a designated time, preferably on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday afternoon, but not on a legal holiday or the day following. If bids are not opened in the presence of the bidders, a tabulation of all bids received should be furnished to each bidder.

(i) If bids are received only from prequalified and invited bidders, the contract generally should be awarded to the lowest bidder.

(j) Minor changes required before signing of contract should be negotiated only with the selected bidder. If major changes are necessary, the original bids should be rejected and new bids should be secured on the basis of revised drawings and specifications.

(k) The owner has the right to reject all bids for a satisfactory reason, but not as a subterfuge to accept a bidder who did not submit a proposal before the prices of the others were made public, or to obtain an estimate of the cost of the work and proceed to award it in segregated contracts. Such pro-

cedure is unfair and if persisted in by the owner, the architect should resign and if possible prevent the use of his drawings and specifications.

(1) Unit prices should only be used where the architect decides they are necessary and where they can be estimated with reasonable accuracy. (See Art. 3 of the A.I.A. Standard Form of Agreement.)

V. SEPARATE CONTRACTS

(a) When portions of the work are let by the owner separately, as provided for in the A.I.A. General Conditions, Article 35, Separate Contracts, it is important that the specifications and drawings make clear beyond doubt the elements of the work so handled and the connection of the general contractor's work thereto.

(b) The provisions of Article 35 apply both to the General Contractor and to the contractors for the items of work let separately. Each must be responsible for his own work and for proper cooperation with the other contractors involved and should recognize this responsibility in preparing his bid.

VI. SUB-CONTRACTORS

(a) A General Bidder has no responsibility to accept any unsolicited sub-bid.

(b) The general contractor should supply to each invited sub-contractor a form of proposal for him to use in submitting his bid. When this is done, the sub-contractor should submit his bid in exact accord therewith. This proposal should be based on identified sections or headings in the specifications and the related drawings.

(c) It is desirable that general bidders receive sub-bids sufficiently in advance of the time for filing general bids to permit adequate analysis and compilation. To make this possible, some procedure is needed for the reasonable protection of the sub-bidders.

The following procedure has been found feasible:

Sub-bids for such branches of the work as the architect may designate, delivered to general bidders at least 24 hours before the general bid is to be filed.

Duplicate sub-bids filed simultaneously with the architect or other stated agency.

Sub-bids used by the general bidder to be at the amounts named in the bids as filed.

The sub-bidders used to be named in the general bid.

Any substitutions to be in accord with the amounts named in the bids as filed.

The duplicate sub-bids to be opened only if a sub-bidder named in the general bid is unsatisfactory,

and then only for the branch of the work involved.

(d) Bids submitted by sub-contractors are confidential information and should be treated as such.

As of Interest

Student Associates

The following resolution, adopted by The Board of Directors of The Institute at its Grand Rapids meeting, was sent to the President of each Chapter under date of June 16, 1947:

"Resolved, That The Board encourage chapters to increase the number of Student Associates and to aid in the formation of organizations of Student Associates suitable to the local situation."

The letter to chapter presidents transmitting this resolution enclosed a questionnaire prepared by the Department of Education and Research, with a request for cooperation in providing the desired information—so that The Institute may have an accurate over-all picture of the number and activities of student associates and in order that the experience of each chapter may be made available to other chapters.

Seminars—Locally Sponsored

The following resolution, adopted by The Board at its Grand Rapids meeting, was sent to the President of each Chapter under date of June 17, 1947:

"Resolved, That the request of the Convention that The Board recommend to chapters and state organizations that they cooperate with the architectural schools and universities for the purpose of organizing seminars in their respective areas be transmitted to the chapters and state organizations."

The Department of Education and Research of The Institute will inform the schools of architecture regarding this recommendation and will give general assistance when so requested.

The Mentor System

The following resolution, adopted by The Board at its Grand Rapids meeting, was sent to the President of each Chapter under date of June 18, 1947:

"Resolved, That The Board recommend to each Chapter the formation of a committee of members of the chapter to constitute an advisory group any one of whom may be approached informally by a young architect for confidential advice on any professional matter excepting design."

It will be noted that the recommended advisory group is intended to carry out the purposes of the "Mentor System." There is in this recommendation of The Board sufficient flexibility to meet the varying conditions in the several chapters.

The resolution is in no sense mandatory, but it is hoped that each chapter will see fit to establish an advisory group and to let that fact be known to the young architects who may be interested.

The Department of Education and Research will inform the schools of architecture that this procedure has been recommended and will offer its cooperation.

A.I.A. Membership Directory

This was heretofore known as the "Annuary," the last edition of which was published in May, 1945. Printing costs are such that it is not feasible to issue a membership directory each year, and for some years past the "Annuary" has been issued biennially.

The new Directory will contain the names and addresses of more than 2,000 new corporate members, and also many changes of address resulting from post-war conditions.

In late May a notice was sent to every corporate member, in the form of a return card, requesting him to give his correct name and address and, if a member of the firm, the name of his firm.

A return date of June 20 was indicated, and many cards have been received. There may be some outstanding in the hands of those whose addresses have changed. It is requested that these be returned at the earliest possible date.

The process of printing a new membership directory is a slow one, usually completed during the summer months. It is hoped to have the new Directory in the hands of every member early in October.

Since the book is to be in use for two years, The Institute would like very much to have it contain in current form the name and address of every corporate member, and likewise his firm name. A member is regarded as a firm member *if he is a partner or legal member of the firm.* Otherwise,

the firm with which he is associated should not be stated.

Chapter Edition of the Minutes

Three meetings of The Board and a special meeting of The Executive Committee were held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in conjunction with the 1947 Convention.

The minutes of those meetings were first printed in confidential form for members of The Board. Thereafter, a few items of a privileged nature were deleted and the minutes were printed as a chapter edition and sent to the executive committee of each chapter in care of its president.

The purpose of this distribution—which is customary procedure—is to give chapter officers and

executive committees and, through them, individual members a correct and substantially complete record of Board or Executive Committee actions on Institute affairs.

It is suggested that the chapters give special attention to these minutes and that chapter presidents summarize them, or some of the important items, at chapter meetings—thus keeping the membership informed concerning the work of The Institute carried on by The Board and Executive Committee.

Funds are not available with which to print and to distribute these minutes directly to every corporate member.

The Board hopes very much that this procedure will bring The Institute into closer touch with the chapters and the corporate members.



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Department of Public and Professional Relations

EDMUND R. PURVES, *Director*

IN THE MAY, 1947 BULLETIN of The American Institute of Architects, it was announced under the heading, Department of Public and Professional Relations, that we would issue an Interim Bulletin. Since that time it has developed that there is no actual need to issue the Interim Bulletin and that the material we had assembled for it could be included in this BULLETIN.

We would like to point out that prior to the establishment of regular printed BULLETINS, this office had issued occasional planographed Bulletins. These contained news items of immediate interest and re-

ports on legislation of interest to the architectural profession.

Due to the fact that there is a definite time lag between the writing of the BULLETIN and the time that the printed document gets into your hands, current news and so-called "flash" items are inevitably obsolete. Therefore, the articles appearing in the printed BULLETIN will be more general in nature. On such occasions as we report on legislation and other matters subject to unforeseen change, we can only hope that our opinions and our forecasts will prove to be true and accurate when they reach you.

Reply to Mr. Koch

IN THE JUNE, 1947 issue of the JOURNAL of The American Institute of Architects, there is printed, in full, a statement made by Mr. Carl Koch to a session of the Convention of The A.I.A., held in Grand Rapids last April. Mr. Koch's remarks subsequently were favored by a gratifying amount of publicity in the public press and in the major architectural magazines. As his remarks reflect on the policies and activities of The A.I.A., we deem it appropriate for this Department to comment on Mr. Koch's statement.

We wish to say at the outset that we admire Mr. Koch for his courage and his forthrightness. It is no easy task for a young man, and a non-member, to openly and avowedly criticize the national organization of the profession to its face, especially when that organization is assembled in Convention.

We do not question the sincerity of Mr. Koch. We have a certain sympathy for his attitude. There are few of us, active in The A.I.A., who have not in our earlier days thought along very much the

same lines as those expressed so unhesitatingly by Mr. Koch. Were it not for the passionate interest in the welfare of the profession and the thought given to the progress of architecture and its representatives by the younger generation, the profession would become atrophied and its organized society would become a mockery. However, we do believe when anyone, young or old, takes it upon himself to criticize an established organization for its activities and policies, that before giving public utterance to his thoughts, the critic should fully acquaint himself with facts and should not predicate his statements on such isolation of thought as to indicate a patent lack of knowledge.

This is the United States of America—a democratic country—in which, no matter how cumbersome the processes of democracy may be, the policies governing the country and its constituent elements are still adopted as a result of studied thought and of the weight of majority opinion. The will of the majority prevails. Majority thinking is stimulated

continually by the candor of the younger enthusiasts. However, that stimulation can only be effective and telling when it is founded on fact and when it is not based on an opinion developed in the ivory tower of predetermined opinion.

Ours is a great big country. All of us should acquaint ourselves with it, with the people, with its thinking, with its political precepts, before embarking on castigation of any one of its constituent elements.

The A.I.A. is truly an American organization; it operates on the democratic principles; its policies are based on the expressed opinion of the majority of its members. It is scarcely conceivable that a national organization representing an entire profession can be entirely out of step with current thinking and with the progressive welfare of the United States.

We are informed that there is a tremendous "gap between the principles on which The Institute was originally founded and its present practical realization". We fail to find that this point of criticism is developed. It would be illuminating to us to learn wherein that gap lies.

We do not agree that there is "more room to be of service outside of the fabric of The A.I.A. than within it". We find that statement an admission of isolationism and not indicating a spirit of cooperation or of willingness to strive for the real betterment of fellow workers.

The A.I.A. is the voice of the profession and is recognized as such. If anyone would like to alter the timbre of that voice, the way is open to him through membership in The Institute, and in doing so he will enjoy the privilege of meeting and knowing his fellow practitioners, of knowing their point of view. He will have the further opportunity of bringing his views more forcibly to their attention and may alter their thinking, provided, of course, his opinions would survive the critical discussion of his peers.

We are told that The Institute must undergo a "series of major changes, both in its organization and attitude, before it can truly represent the architectural profession as a whole". This statement gives one cause to question as to just what proportion of the profession the critic represents. We have reason to believe that by virtue of the extent of our membership and by virtue of the democratic structure of The Institute, that we are surely a more representative voice of the profession than is that of a lone in-

dividual, apparently confused by a most extraordinary conception of The Institute and its operation.

On further reading we find a development of the "gap". *Venom* is centered on an imagined attitude of The A.I.A. on housing. On this subject our critic was either patently misinformed or had never taken the trouble to read the testimony of the representatives of The Institute on the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill. Incidentally, The Institute's attitude is based on not only exhaustive study by a number of its members, but also on the expressed opinion of the Chapters and membership of The Institute as determined through a poll of the profession. The Institute stand on the T-E-W Bill does represent the opinion of the profession as accurately as it is possible to ascertain such an opinion. Inevitably, the consultation was not all-inclusive. If so, our apologies.

The assertion that "Housing" is the number-one problem in America denotes an ignorance of current events. Even a casual reading of the daily papers would give any citizen cause to ponder on Labor, Taxes and the International Situations as being rather major problems.

We also find a trifle extraordinary the curious jumble of organizations listed as being behind the T-E-W Bill. Governmental agencies are confused with national organizations. Possibly not everyone knows that the National Housing Agency is not a national organization, but an administrative department of the United States Government. Naturally, that agency seeks the passage of S. 866, for the Bill would preserve the National Housing Agency and, incidentally, the careers of all those who are in it. The same may be said, to a certain extent, of the National Association of Housing Officials. It can scarcely be conceived that these two organizations, in their support of the Bill, are entirely free of selfish interest. But such selfish interest we find in order and understandable.

The fundamental policies on housing of the two great labor organizations should be weighed and their opinions compared.

That statement that most veterans' organizations support the Bill may be true, but it is actually a deceptive statement.

The American Legion still has many times the membership of all other veterans' organizations combined, and the American Legion, while supporting, in a sense, the T-E-W Bill, nevertheless has recently shown a true concern for the democratic disposition of its extensive membership. Whether we agree with

it or not, the American Legion is still the only effective and potent voice of the organized veterans. The listing of The A.I.A. with the other organizations as being opposed to the Bill is purely a misrepresentation of fact as was explained by the footnote in the JOURNAL.

The thesis on the T-E-W Bill leads us to believe that the vehemence of the attack on The A.I.A. implies a devotion to a cause which is not fully understood.

An ignorance of actualities is again reflected in the comments on Mr. Wilson Wyatt and in the quoting of that quondam official. In fact, it was Mr. Wyatt who could have been more cooperative and helpful. If Mr. Wyatt had had the foresight to have appreciated the benefit that would have resulted from his (Mr. Wyatt's), cooperation with the construction industry, his program might have been attuned to achieve a successful conclusion. Instead, Mr. Wyatt saw fit to ignore the advice and opinion of an element of the economy which had had far more experience in the hazards and difficulties of a construction program than had a former liberal mayor of a medium American city.

A Federal official is the servant of the public and not its director, a status which should always be kept in mind.

Again, let us observe that this is a democratic country, that it moves forward through the concerted effort and opinion of its people. It has been clearly demonstrated that no single individual can hope to manipulate its economy as Mr. Wyatt attempted to do.

Whenever The A.I.A. has taken a stand on any matter, that stand is not based on either selfish interest or unsound judgment. We are objective in our thinking and endeavor to adopt policies which will benefit the general economy. This may be of itself a selfish interest, for when one advances the general economy, one inevitably advances oneself.

Credit was given for one accomplishment—our ability to straddle the fence while keeping both ears on the ground. We wish we could achieve this gymnastic phenomenon. It would be most helpful. It is, unfortunately, impossible.

The comparison of our activities and policies to those of the R.I.B.A. indicates a complete lack of comprehension of the economic problems prevalent in the two countries. The R.I.B.A. is in Great Britain; The A.I.A. is in the United States. A

study of the comparative economies of the two nations and of their respective problems would benefit any critical essay on the policies of any national organizations of those two countries.

The rather astounding statement was made by our critic that he is disturbed by the lack of understanding between the various government agencies and the architectural profession. This leaves me to wonder just what the critic's personal experience may have been. Has the United States Government overlooked anyone? The uttering of such a statement, predicated on nothing tangible to the audience, detracts from the statement itself. Again, I would ask for more specific enlightenment. We are in constant touch with many government agencies and, to the best of our knowledge, have achieved happy working relations with them.

It was lamented that almost no governmental policy makers are architects. It is relatively unimportant whether policy makers are architects or not. The important fact is whether or not the policy makers understand architects and architectural service. We are happy to report that, in almost all major instances, they do understand architects and they do appreciate our service.

Again, I do not know upon what is based the statement that the "unhappy facts" are attributable to the uncooperative attitude of many in the profession to the aims and purposes of the agencies. Does our critic realize that the agencies are, in fact, the agents of the taxpayers—in other words, the citizens of the United States—and are responsible to the citizens, through the citizens' elected representatives, the Congress of the United States? Does he realize that the agencies are set up for the purpose of carrying out the wishes of the people, and not for the purpose of promulgating the theories of any individual administrator or of any other official?

That all is not right with this country, this world, this Institute, is readily admitted. That all can be set right by condemnation is, of course, an error of understanding.

Despite the criticism of Mr. Koch advanced in this article, which is—we think—less vehement than his castigation of The Institute, let us say that we would welcome heartily his energy and enthusiasm and especially himself in the ranks of The A.I.A. We assure him that we are objective in our thinking and operate on democratic principles.

United Nations Center

THE MEMBERSHIP is familiar with the work and accomplishments of the Committee appointed over a year ago on the United Nations Center. This Committee has completed its work. It offered its services to the United Nations; its offer was accepted and made use of. It held a series of meetings with officials of the United Nations. Its chief accomplishment was significant. It established firmly the existence of The American Institute of Architects in the eyes and minds of the United Nations.

Subsequently, a small advisory committee to the Consultant Board of the United Nations Center was appointed at the direct request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Trygve Lie. A report on the work of this committee was made to you in the March issue of the BULLETIN. This Advisory Committee will be continued.

By Convention action, a special committee of The American Institute of Architects will be appointed by the President of The Institute to investigate the possibilities of securing outside financial assistance for the organization and maintenance of a world-wide competition for important elements of the proposed United Nations Center. Recent articles and reproductions of schemes published in national magazines have served to emphasize the importance of this committee and the magnitude of the task that lies before it.

Some of the articles and reproductions have been unintentionally misleading. The conclusion has been drawn in some quarters that the published features denote the final scheme, and have led to the belief that the design of the United Nations Center has already been adopted. This is not the case.

The United Nations through its Secretary-General, appointed a Director of Planning. It has been the duty of the Director of Planning, assisted by a consultant board of architects drawn from this and other countries, to prepare a scheme and a report on the United Nations Center. The report and the proposed scheme may or may not be adopted by the General Assembly at its coming session.

The Director of Planning, Wallace K. Harrison of New York, has shown a sympathetic consideration of the proposal that there be a competition for an important element or elements of the Center. This

position has been endorsed by other members of the consultant board.

A desire for a competition is the natural expressed wish of the profession in general.

We understand that some members of the Consultant Board have considered the suggestion of a competition as a reflection on their abilities as designers. There is no such implication in the expressed desire on the part of many for an international competition.

There is a reason why it is imperative for The American Institute of Architects to initiate anything that will bring to the United Nations a reviving and impelling incentive for the spirit of the United Nations itself. When the United Nations Center was dropped on Manhattan Island, a large stone had been tossed into a pool. There were immediate ripples of approbation and opposition, both of which served to center the interest of the country on the site and in so doing on the United Nations itself. These ripples have now died away. The country has moved on to consider problems of more immediate and what now appear to be of greater interest. The watchers on the bank have turned their backs, and what was once a keen interest has dwindled to a vague apathy. This apathy extends far beyond the confines of the architectural profession, it includes the people of the country.

Interest in the United Nations in this country is decidedly at a very low ebb. An international world-wide competition for the United Nations Center would serve to re-stimulate an interest not only in the buildings, but in the United Nations itself. The initiation of such a competition is a contribution that The American Institute of Architects can make, not alone to the structure but to the spirit and life of the United Nations itself.

If the United Nations fails, if the erection of a set of buildings in the ephemeral life of a financial center marks the only concrete milestone in the progress of the United Nations, then we may as well not only prepare ourselves for the ultimate dissipation of the United Nations as such, but prepare ourselves also to become, as a nation, the landlords of empty buildings, whose presence will only serve as a persistent reminder of our ineptitude.

VI Pan American Congress

YOU have been advised from time to time through these BULLETINS, and through the JOURNAL, and directly from the Chairman of the Institute's Committee on International Relations, of the VI Pan-American Congress to be held in Lima, Peru, in October. For your information, we are quoting herewith the by-laws of the VI Pan-American Congress as translated by the Department of State.

BY-LAWS OF THE SIXTH PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS

ARTICLE 1. The Sixth Pan-American Congress of Architects shall open in the city of Lima on October 15, 1947 and shall close on Saturday, October 25. Jointly with the Congress there shall be held a Pan-American Exposition of Architecture and Town-planning, and an American Book Exposition of Architecture and Town-planning, the latter being organized by the Biblioteca Nacional (National Library) of Lima, under the auspices of the Organizing Committee of the Congress.

ARTICLE 2. The purposes of the Congress shall be:

To continue with the interchange of ideas in everything having to do with the architect's profession which was begun in former Congresses.

To stimulate the high ideals which the architect puts into practice in the carrying out of his work.

To promote knowledge of technical problems in the field of architecture in the different American countries and of the solutions adopted or proposed for their solution.

To strengthen the professional and social ties which unite the architects of the Continent.

ARTICLE 3. The Congress shall be under the high patronage of the President of Peru, Dr. José Luís Bustamante y Rivero, and under the auspices of the Government, as represented by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Education, Interior and Public Works, (and) Public Health, of the Mayors of the City of Lima and of the City of Cuzco, and of the Director of the *Escuela Nacional de Ingenieros* (National School of Engineers) of Lima.

MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS

ARTICLE 4. The following shall be titulary members of the Congress:

- a) Delegates of the Governments;
- b) Delegates of the Faculties or Schools of Architecture;
- c) Delegates of Associations of Architects;
- d) Architects who are delegates of invited Institutions;

- e) Certified architects who may so request;
- f) Persons especially invited.

The following shall be adhering members:

Architects, students of architecture and other persons who may so desire.

Such non-American architects as may be invited to be present at the Congress shall be observer members.

ARTICLE 5. With the exception of delegates of the Government, observers and persons especially invited, other titulary members shall subscribe dues of fifty Peruvian gold Sols (S/0.50.00) [each]. 1 gold Sol = approx. \$0.10.

Adhering members shall subscribe dues of twenty Peruvian gold Sols (S/0.20.00) [each].

ARTICLE 6. To become a member of the Congress, application must be made in writing to the Executive Committee of the respective country, enclosing the amount of the corresponding dues.

ARTICLE 7. Titulary members shall be entitled to present papers, attend the public functions and Assemblies of the Congress, and take part in discussions, with the right to vote.

Adhering members and observers may present papers and attend the public functions and Assemblies of the Congress, but without taking part in the discussions and without the right to vote.

Titulary, adhering and observer members of the Congress shall receive all publications of the Congress.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 8. The Executive Committee of the Congress shall be made up of the Permanent Committee of Pan-American Congresses, the National Committees of the other countries of America, and the Organizing Committee in Peru.

The National Committees shall constitute the link between the Congress members from each country and the Organizing Committee of Peru, and shall be in charge of organization of their delegation, the reception of the respective papers, designation of adhering members, reception of the dues, and other tasks relating to the Congress.

ARTICLE 9. The Executive Committee shall be in charge of organization of the Congress up to the time of opening, advance communications and the publication of records and papers.

ARTICLE 10. The National Committee shall be in charge of organizing the groups attending the Congress from their respective countries.

ARTICLE 11. The Congress shall attend to the following matters:

- a) Reporting on official topics of the Congress;
- b) Reporting on topics recommended for study by the Executive Committee;

- c) Communications and personal papers not included in the official topics.

ARTICLE 12. Official topics to be dealt with by the Congress shall be:

Topic I—American Architecture in its various and successive plastic expressions and its effects on the orientation of present-day architecture of the Continent.

Topic II—Characteristics and function of Vicinal Housing Units in the cities of America.

Topic III—Present-day tendencies in the teaching of Architecture.

Topic IV—Architecture as a factor of social welfare, and study of the over-all solution of the problem of low-cost housing in America.

Topic V—Contemporary Architecture, its esthetic expression and new construction methods and materials.

Topic VI—The creation of Colleges of Architecture in the countries of America.

PLENARY SESSIONS

ARTICLE 13. The Congress shall hold general assemblies, of which the opening session, business session and closing session shall be public.

ARTICLE 14. The Executive Committee shall draw up the working program of the Congress.

ARTICLE 15. At its preliminary session, the Congress shall proceed to nomination of the Chairman of the Congress and three Vice Chairmen.

ARTICLE 16. The maximum time allotted to each speaker shall be as follows: Reports, 15 minutes; Official communications, 10 minutes; Discussion of reports or communications, 5 minutes.

Each speaker may have the floor only twice on the same subject.

The author shall have 10 minutes at the close of the discussion to support his conclusions. Only by special resolution of the Assembly may speakers have the floor for a longer time than that indicated.

ARTICLE 17. Work of the Assemblies shall be directed by the Executive Board and shall be subject to its directives and decisions.

COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 18. Seven Committees shall be formed, one for the study of each one of the official topics, and one for the study of free subjects which the Committee may consider as not included therein.

ARTICLE 19. Each Committee shall, when formed, appoint a Chairman, Vice Chairman and two Secretaries.

ARTICLE 20. The reports of each Committee which are to be dealt with at plenary sessions of the Congress must be drawn up in writing.

ARTICLE 21. Papers must be presented to the Executive Committee in Lima before October 14,

1947, preceded by an outline or résumé not to exceed 1,000 words, which shall be sent to the Secretariat of the Organizing Committee, Ocona 180-508, before September 14.

ARTICLE 22. The official languages of the Congress shall be Spanish, English, Portuguese and French.

The delegates will have to defray their own expenses. The State Department, in cooperation with the Peruvian Government, will effect certain facilities for the members of the delegation.

If any architects wish to submit papers on the themes as contained in the By-Laws, will they please communicate with Mr. Julian Clarence Levi, Chairman, Committee on International Relations, A.I.A., 105 West 40th St., New York 18, N. Y.

There will be a delegation from the United States; the exact status of this delegation has not been determined. It is presumed that a conference will be held with the State Department within a month or so which will serve to qualify the delegates with the privileges which the delegation will enjoy.

Any members wishing to attend the Congress may communicate with Mr. Levi.

The A.I.A. has been collaborating with the Department of State and with the American Institute of Planners to assemble an exhibition of American architecture to be sent to Peru. Notice of this exhibition has already been sent to the Chapters of The A.I.A. and we believe that you are familiar with it. For the benefit of those who may not have seen Chapter Bulletins, we wish to state that any architect wishing to send exhibits should supply the following:

- a. The name and address of the architect.
- b. Name and location of building.
- c. Size and number of black and white unmounted photographs per building.
- d. Agreement of each exhibitor to allow photographic reproductions to be made.
- e. Agreement of each exhibitor to pay \$3 a square foot for exhibits accepted, and as presented by the Committee, to help defray expenses.
- f. Agreement to provide photographs of plans should same be required.

The deadline for the receipt of exhibits is July 23rd, 1947.

Exhibits are to be plainly marked and addressed: Attention Earl G. Millison, Chief, Graphic and Special Services Branch, United States Department

of State, Washington 25, D. C. If any exhibits are sent by express, they should be addressed to Mr. Millison, but add—Walker Johnson Building, 1734 New York Ave., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Both addresses are the same, but the express company will

not use the Governmental postal zone, which is all-inclusive 25 (for Federal Agencies); whereas, the Post Office will probably delay the exhibits if they are not addressed to Washington 25, when the mails are used.

Department of State and Registration of Visitors

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE issues every week a register of distinguished visitors to this country. Copies of the register are sent to The Octagon. Whenever it is noted that an architect is traveling in this country under the auspices of his or our government, we will endeavor to inform the profession in order that his trip to this country may be made as pleasant and as instructive as possible.

In this connection we wish to commend the Colorado Chapter of The American Institute of Architects for the program it has established for the entertainment of distinguished foreign architects. This program is being carried out by the Chapter's Committee on Public Relations—Oscar Hegner, Chairman. This Committee has applied to The Institute for information on any distinguished for-

eign architect who may be visiting the State of Colorado.

The most recent issue of the register gives the itinerary of Sr. Martin Noel of Argentina, President of the Argentina Academy of Fine Arts, who is visiting the United States on the invitation of the Department of State.

Sr. Noel is a professor on the faculty of the University of Buenos Aires, the University of Brazil and the University of Montevideo, and he is a member of the City Planning Commission of the City of Brazil and an author of numerous works on architecture. His itinerary includes New York, New Haven, Boston, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Chicago, New Orleans, Sante Fé, Tucson, San Francisco, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles.

Foreign Architects and Students

THIS OFFICE occasionally receives requests from architects and architectural students in foreign countries for temporary positions in offices in the United States. Regulations governing the admission of such persons to the United States are at the present time restricted in nature, and make it virtually impossible for any non-official visitor to this country to enter except under the sponsorship of an individual in this country, unless the visitor comes in on the regular immigration quota. There are provisions whereby an alien may obtain a temporary position in this country for the purpose of professional experience.

We publish herewith a list of the architects and students who have applied to this office with the thought that if any members of The Institute are interested, they may communicate with this office or with the individuals themselves. It is suggested that those who wish to sponsor these alien architects and

students acquaint themselves with the regulations governing the admission of aliens to this country:

Mr. A. E. Hagangen, Upplanlgatan 51 c/o Ahlin, Stockholm, Sweden; student. Desires summer work only.

Mr. Karl Feller, 34 Mercer Road, Armadale S. E. 3, Melbourne, Australia; architect. Architectural and interior designer.

Mr. Othman Joller, Froben Str. 21, Basel, Switzerland; architect.

Mr. Raymund Schuller, Atelier Innsbruck, Stiftgasse 1/3, Austria; architect.

Messrs. Aladar and Viktor Olgyay, Petofi Sandor—U 12, Budapest, IV, Hungary; architects.

Mr. F. A. S. Hassouna (Egyptian) 15 Waverley Road, Liverpool 17, England; architect.

Any architects interested in the architects or students listed above, may obtain further information by applying to this office.

Roster Program

THE Convention resolution concerning the Roster program was published in The American Institute of Architects' BULLETIN for May. The administration of this resolution has been referred to this Department with the advice and counsel of the Committee on the Architect and Governmental Relations. It is hoped that before too long the technical details of the procedure will be worked out and the profession will be fully informed and the Committees of Review will be instructed. It is anticipated that the result of the Roster program will be the compilation and maintenance of a continuing reference

file of all architects. The records will consist of statements of facts submitted by the architects themselves.

No officer of a Chapter or The Institute or any member of the staff will make any qualifying list or will in any way correct or alter the statements of fact.

This activity, it should be pointed out, is an Institute activity and is not subject to Chapter action.

The Roster program has been endorsed and approved by The American Institute of Architects in Convention.

Legislative Notes

IN THE Bulletins published in the past directly from this office, we have reported on the status of innumerable bills of interest to the profession. Due to the delay now between writing and publication, we hesitate to give the status or to list the Bills. We will confine ourselves only to reporting on a few legislative items of prime interest. We would like to say, however, that this office has reviewed, since the commencement of the 80th Congress, approximately 500 bills. The progress of all reported bills has been checked. Bills of especial interest have been carefully followed and have been acted upon when occasion demanded. Approximately 5600 Bills have been introduced in this session of the 80th Congress to date.

We have taken action on several major issues. Among these:

S. 866—TAFT-ELLENDER-WAGNER HOUSING BILL

You are familiar with the testimony on this Bill rendered by Louis Justement, Chairman of The Institute's Committee on Urban Planning, and with the report of The Board of Directors on this measure, also with the action of the Convention. At the present time, it does not appear that this Bill will be acted upon in this session of Congress. There is some reason to believe that as next year is a presidential election year, the Bill will become active and may develop as a national issue. In a sense, this is to be regretted, as political implications would then becloud its value as a piece of progressive legislation.

H. R. 3203—WOLCOTT BILL

Public Law 129, known as the "Housing and Rent Act of 1947" (signed by the President on June 30, 1947 and effective July 1, 1947), is of manifest interest to the architectural profession. In brief, the Bill would accomplish the following which is a digest from the June 19, 1947 weekly letter of the National Association of Home Builders.

1. After the effective date of the Act you may build housing accommodations of any size and value without Federal permit.

2. You may construct any commercial or industrial buildings without permit, excepting buildings or facilities for amusement or recreational purposes.

3. Sales-pricing requirements on priority housing will continue, but legitimate increased costs will be recognized and approved by the FHA.

4. Title VI of the National Housing Act, which expires June 30th, is extended to March 31, 1948. This will provide more than a billion dollars of authorization, most of which will be used for Section 608 rental projects.

5. A new Section 609 of Title VI is made available to provide FHA insured loans for factory-built housing.

6. A 15% voluntary rent increase (applicable to the rent paid as of June 30, 1947) may be agreed upon between landlord and tenant provided the lease extends through December 31, 1948.

7. Accommodations not rented between February 1, 1945 and January 31, 1947, may be rented at any figure.

8. Houses or apartments the construction of which was completed, or created by conversion, on or after February 1, 1947, may be rented at any figure.

The Bill itself is a combination of the House "Wolcott" Bill and the Senate "Buck" Bill. It is interesting to report that an amendment was tacked on to the Bill in the Senate from the floor, which would have made commercial building subject to controls. It is rumored that a high-ranking government official stated that in his opinion "commercial" included any kind of building other than housing. Thus, no gain would have been accomplished and the industry would have found itself restricted as it has been. Representatives of The A.I.A. sought to encourage the House conferees to hold out for the Bill in the form that it passed the House, especially with respect to this particular item. When the Bill was reported out of the conference, the Senate amendment had been stricken off. Action of The A.I.A. representatives with respect to the conferees is consistent with the resolution adopted by The A.I.A. Convention on the elimination of controls affecting the construction industry.

H. R. 3020—TAFT-HARTLEY LABOR BILL

Public Law 101, known as the "Labor Management Relations Act of 1947," was passed by the House over Presidential veto on June 20, 1947 and passed by the Senate over Presidential veto on June 23, 1947.

You are all aware of the momentous occasion when the Congress over-rode the President's veto of the Taft-Hartley Labor Bill. Many of you may question the interest of the profession and The A.I.A. in this Bill. We call to mind that our interest is not only general, but specific. Any measure of such far-reaching consequence cannot help but affect the welfare of the industry and of the architects. The entire national economy is affected. Subsequently, the representatives of The A.I.A. in testifying on labor matters with respect to the profession, requested the consideration of three significant points in the drawing up of the legislation. These were:

First, no employee in a professional office should be forced, against his desire, to join a labor organization as a condition of employment.

Second, should a professional collective bargaining group be formed, it must not be forced to affiliate

itself with a non-professional labor organization.

Third, the right of the employees in those units to designate their own representatives must be strictly observed.

We are pleased to report that all three points are included in the "Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947" and in addition to that, there is a definition of the "professional" inserted in the Act.

What we sought to do, in collaboration with the engineers, and accomplished was to make certain that professional people would not be subject to sub-professional union terms and that the open shop would prevail in the professional field.

We are aware that attempts to organize the employees of architects are sporadic and have not been particularly successful in the past. We know, furthermore, that conditions of work in an architect's office are far above any minimum standards required by law or by labor.

However, the fact remains that if the open shop and the professional dominance is not maintained in professional offices, and if the unions should force organization in professional offices (subject to the direction of sub-professional bargaining units), that the control the unions would have on the construction industry and on the national economy, through the domination of the professional offices, would be formidable and would prevent any beneficial effect that the architectural profession might have on the normal progress of the national economy. For this reason we consider that our interest in the Taft-Hartley Labor Bill was of primary importance.

REORGANIZATION PLAN No. 3

We report to you herewith that we filed statements in opposition to the President's Reorganization Plan No. 3, with the appropriate committees in both the Senate and the House. For your information, the Organization Plan is quoted herewith and also our statement in opposition. We believe the testimony to be self-explanatory. It is not that we object to any consolidation of Housing agencies, but we do object to any form of consolidation which would lend itself to confusion. We believe that a consolidation of housing agencies will arrive some day and will be set up on a basis that we can thoroughly endorse. We hope that The A.I.A. will take a lead in establishing the proper form for the consolidation of housing agencies.

REORGANIZATION PLAN NO. 3 OF 1947

Prepared by the President and transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled, May 27, 1947, pursuant to the provisions of the Reorganization Act of 1945, approved December 20, 1945.

HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY

SECTION 1. *Housing and Home Finance Agency.*—The Home Owners' Loan Corporation, the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, the Federal Housing Administration, the United States Housing Authority, the Defense Homes Corporation, and the United States Housing Corporation; together with their respective functions, the functions of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, and the other functions transferred by this plan, are consolidated, subject to the provisions of sections 2 to 5, inclusive, hereof, into an agency which shall be known as the Housing and Home Finance Agency. There shall be in said Agency constituent agencies which shall be known as the Home Loan Bank Board, the Federal Housing Administration, and the Public Housing Administration.

SEC. 2. *Home Loan Bank Board.*—(a) The Home Loan Bank Board shall consist of three members appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Not more than two members of the Board shall be members of the same political party. The President shall designate the members of the Board first appointed hereunder to serve for terms expiring, respectively, at the close of business on June 30, 1949, June 30, 1950, and June 30, 1951, and thereafter the term of each member shall be four years. Whenever a vacancy shall occur among the members the person appointed to fill such vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of the member whose place he is selected to fill. Each of the members of the Board shall receive compensation at the rate of \$10,000 per annum.

(b) The President shall designate one of the members of the Home Loan Bank Board as Chairman of the Board. The Chairman shall (1) be the chief executive officer of the Board, (2) appoint and direct the personnel necessary for the performance of the functions of the Board or of the Chairman or of any agency under the Board, and (3) designate the order in which the other members of the Board shall, during the absence or disability of the Chairman, be Acting Chairman and perform the duties of the Chairman.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section there are transferred to the Home Loan Bank Board the functions (1) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, (2) of the Board of Directors of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, (3) of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, (4) of any member or members of any of said Boards, and (5) with

respect to the dissolution of the United States Housing Corporation.

SEC. 3. *Federal Housing Administration.*—The Federal Housing Administration shall be headed by a Federal Housing Commissioner who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and receive compensation at the rate of \$10,000 per annum. There are transferred to said Commissioner the functions of the Federal Housing Administrator.

SEC. 4. *Public Housing Administration.*—The Public Housing Administration shall be headed by a Public Housing Commissioner who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and receive compensation at the rate of \$10,000 per annum. There are transferred to said Commissioner the functions—

(a) Of the Administrator of the United States Housing Authority (which agency shall hereafter be administered and known as the Public Housing Administration);

(b) Of the National Housing Agency with respect to non-farm-housing projects and other properties remaining under its jurisdiction pursuant to section 2 (a) (3) of the Farmers' Home Administration Act of 1946 (Public Law 731, Seventy-ninth Congress, approved August 14, 1946); and

(c) With respect to the liquidation and dissolution of the Defense Homes Corporation.

SEC. 5. *Housing and Home Finance Administrator.*—(a) The Housing and Home Finance Agency shall be headed by a Housing and Home Finance Administrator who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall receive compensation at the rate of \$10,000 per annum.

(b) The Administrator shall be responsible for the general supervision and coordination of the functions of the constituent agencies of the Housing and Home Finance Agency and for such purpose there are transferred to said Administrator the functions of the Federal Loan Administrator and the Federal Works Administrator (1) with respect to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, the Federal Housing Administration, and the United States Housing Authority, and (2) with respect to the functions of said agencies.

(c) There are also transferred to the administrator the functions—

(1) Of holding on behalf of the United States the capital stock of the Defense Homes Corporation;

(2) Under titles I and III, and sections 401, 501, and 502, of the Act of October 14, 1940 (54 Stat. 1125), as amended;

(3) Of the War and Navy Departments

with respect to national defense and war housing (except that located on military or naval posts, reservations, or bases) under the Act of September 9, 1940 (54 Stat. 872), as amended; and

(4) Of all agencies designated to provide temporary shelter in defense areas under the Acts of March 1, 1941, May 24, 1941, and December 17, 1941 (55 Stat. 14, 197, and 810), insofar as such functions relate to such temporary shelter.

SEC. 6. *National Housing Council.*—There shall be in the Housing and Home Finance Agency a National Housing Council composed of the Housing and Home Finance Administrator as Chairman, the Federal Housing Commissioner, the Public Housing Commissioner, the Chairman of the Home Loan Bank Board, the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs or his designee, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation or his designee, and the Secretary of Agriculture or his designee. The National Housing Council shall serve as a medium for promoting, to the fullest extent practicable within revenues, the most effective use of the housing functions and activities administered within the Housing and Home Finance Agency and the other departments and agencies represented on said Council in the furtherance of the housing policies and objectives established by law, for facilitating consistency between such housing functions and activities and the general economic and fiscal policies of the Government, and for avoiding duplication or overlapping of such housing functions and activities.

SEC. 7. *Interim appointments.*—Pending the initial appointment hereunder of any officer provided for by this plan, the functions of such officer shall be performed temporarily by such officer of the existing National Housing Agency as the President shall designate.

SEC. 8. *Transfers of property, personnel, and funds.*—The assets, contracts, property, records, personnel, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, or other funds, held, employed, or available or to be made available in connection with functions transferred by this plan are hereby transferred with such transferred functions, respectively.

SEC. 9. *Abolitions.*—The Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the Board of Directors of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, and the Board of Trustees of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, together with the offices of the members of said boards, the office of Federal Housing Administrator, and the office of Administrator of the United States Housing Authority, are abolished.

STATEMENT BY EDMUND R. PURVES, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, ON THE REORGANIZATION PLAN

NO. 3 OF MAY 27, 1947, TRANSMITTED TO CONGRESS BY THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 27, 1947, BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY ON JUNE 19, 1947.

On behalf of The American Institute of Architects this statement is submitted to express disapproval of Reorganization Plan No. 3.

The American Institute of Architects is the only national society representing the profession of architecture. It includes within its organization 79 Chapters, 11 State Associations, and 6 State Organizations, representing every part of the United States and its possessions. By virtue of its comprehensive organization, it is competent to express the opinion of the profession as a whole.

On March 26, 1947, Mr. Louis Justement, Chairman of The Institute's Committee on Urban Planning, testified with respect to Senate Bill 866, the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill. Mr. Justement's testimony included a reference to Title II of that Bill. We quote that testimony:

"We approve the effort to coordinate Government agencies having to do with home finance, home building and public housing by means of a Commission instead of a consolidated National Housing Agency. We believe, however, that the proposed Commission could function more effectively if it consisted of five members as follows: the Administrator, the Federal Home Loan Bank Administrator, the Federal Housing Administrator, the Federal Public Housing Administrator and the Federal Urban Redevelopment Administrator." (The last named being an Administrator proposed by Mr. Justement.)

Subsequently, Mr. Justement's testimony was approved by The American Institute of Architects, assembled in Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on May 1, 1947. The American Institute of Architects is, therefore, on record with respect to the coordination of Housing Agencies.

We do not necessarily insist upon an exact form of coordination. However, we are firmly of the belief that the underlying principle of any coordinating of agencies is that the Council, or Commission, or other body formed through coordination, be the directing organization in the carrying out of Housing policies of this country—and that it not be relegated to a position subordinate to any single individual.

A study of Reorganization Plan No. 3 by officers and members of the staff of The American Institute of Architects led those who made the study to believe that the Plan is not consistent with the foregoing policy. An inference may be drawn from the vague wording of the Plan that the Housing and Home Finance Administrator may set himself up as a dictator of the Housing policies of the country, and that the Council may be subordinate to the Administrator. Under Section 6 of the Plan, it appears to us that the wording lends itself to the carrying out

of any policy which the Administrator might cause the Council to pursue.

It is our belief that a document so vaguely expressed as Reorganization Plan No. 3 will not necessarily support the true intent and true purpose of a coordinating Housing Council or Commission. The possible flexibility of interpretation inherent in the Plan is such as to make it undesirable. We would prefer that any plan for the coordinating of Housing

programs of the Federal Government be clear and unequivocal in meaning. The duties of the various officials and the functions of any agency Commission, or other Board, should be defined and limited in an unmistakable manner. We fail to find the desirable clarity in the Plan as written.

We, therefore, urge the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency to express its disapproval of Reorganization Plan No. 3.

Green-Muhlenberg Bills

HEARINGS on the Bill S. 1423 (H. R. 3490) were hurriedly called by Senator Cain, Chairman of a Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Public Works, on Friday, July 11, 1947. Mr. J. Frazer Smith, Chairman of The Institute's Committee on the Architect and Governmental Relations, testified at the hearings and made the following statement:

STATEMENT BY J. FRAZER SMITH ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ON S. 1423, BEFORE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS ON JULY 11, 1947.

My name is J. Frazer Smith. I am a practicing architect in Memphis, Tennessee. I have been a member of The American Institute of Architects since 1926 and was at one time a National Director of The Institute. At the present time, I have the honor to be the Chairman of The Institute's National Committee on the Architect and Governmental Relations.

The American Institute of Architects is the only national organization of the architectural profession in this country. It has, as of today, 7,000 active members. Through its comprehensive nationwide organization, which includes component Chapters, State Societies and State Associations distributed throughout the United States, it represents the profession as a whole.

At its annual Convention held in Grand Rapids, April 29, 1947, The American Institute of Architects unanimously adopted a resolution favoring the further implementation of Title V of the War Mobilization and Reconversion Act of 1944. S. 1423 is essentially a continuation of that Title. We appear here today in support of Senate Bill 1423 and urge its favorable consideration by your Committee.

The principles embodied in the Bill are not new. They have been tried and proven. Other witnesses have no doubt demonstrated to you the factual evidence to substantiate this statement.

Title V was incorporated in the 1944 Act as a result of exhaustive study on the part of Con-

gressional Committees and at the recommendation of individuals and organizations concerned with sound progressive welfare and with the relation of planned public works to the general economy.

It may be charged that the appearance of representatives of the architectural profession to advocate the passage of a measure which calls for the expenditure of Federal funds for the payment of advance planning work may reflect a selfish interest on the part of the profession. Of course, the Bill, if enacted into law, would compensate a number of architects, engineers and other designers who might be called upon to prepare plans for local Public Works. However, we are not here in that special interest. We are here to advocate the adoption of an Act which, while slightly benefiting a few architects, would exert its principal power towards the benefit and progress of the American community.

This Bill, S. 1423, contains principles which The American Institute of Architects, among others, has long advocated. It calls for the advance planning of necessary local public works and the integrating of that advance planning with over-all State, local or regional plans. It is a Bill which would stimulate the orderly progress of the necessary physical improvements. It would tend to obviate ill-considered planning, the kind that results from a frenzied endeavor to meet an economic or other emergency by frantic and hastily planned construction.

The Bill would permit political sub-divisions which do not have available cash resources to go on with planning of their needed works, and would thereby enable them to gain time to raise the necessary construction funds by obtaining public approval of bond issues. Sometimes State and local governments do not have taxable resources sufficient to create general sinking funds in order to cover the cost of planning in advance. The localities must depend entirely on issues of bonds. Bond issues must be approved by legislation or public referendum, or both, and in the necessary amounts for the projects. These necessary amounts cannot be determined without plans. It is only from well prepared plans that

accurate construction estimates can be arrived at and the project costs determined. On the other hand, plans cannot be prepared until money is available. Planning professionals are not financially able to render a highly technical and competent service on a contingent basis. It is not possible for them to do so.

The program envisioned by this legislation is not a grant-in-aid program. It rather constitutes a certain financial assistance to local governments which permits those governments to see their way clear to achieve necessary and desirable physical improvements. When construction is started, money paid for advance planning is returned to the Federal Treasury. This process does not involve a drain on the Federal Treasury.

You have available the accurate figures of the planning advances to date. It is our understanding that these figures have amounted to approximately sixty million dollars, and this initial sum has been all but exhausted. It may be erroneously charged that, by virtue of the sums that have already been expended under Title V for plans for public works, a sufficient number of plans and specifications have been acquired to constitute an adequate shelf of needed public works to be constructed in the near future or at some other opportune time. If such an impression has been created, it is erroneous. We have reason to believe that the existing shelf of available public works is not even adequate for basic local needs, let alone its lack of ability to constitute a telling factor in an economic upset. The

current backlog is not even adequate for the normal demands of national growth.

It might be said that public interest is not sufficient to warrant the serious consideration of this legislation. We are all aware of the deficiencies and vagaries of public interest. It might take a serious depression or catastrophe to focus public attention on a program such as that contemplated by S. 1423. However, that does not relieve those of us who are aware of the situation, and who are concerned with the orderly progress of the nation, of the responsibility of working for adequate and proper legislation long prior to the time of crucial need.

It would appear to us that this Congress would be well advised to have enacted, and to its credit, legislation such as S. 1423. Criticism is immediate and loud when economic upsets make themselves felt. We should be prepared with substantial constructive measures which do not contemplate tossing away Federal funds on futile tasks as the "cure" for hysteria and distress. S. 1423 is such a constructive measure.

We urge favorable consideration of this Bill. We consider it sound legislation and dedicated to the orderly advancement of the public welfare.

* * *

The full text of the Muhlenberg Bill was printed in the May issue of the BULLETIN. The bill has already received the enthusiastic support not only of members of the profession, but of many other people interested in advance planning.

Opportunity for Employment in South Africa

WE QUOTE herein a letter received from South Africa:

Cape Town, 27th May, 1947.

DEAR SIR:

The American Consulate have given me your address in connection with endeavoring to obtain qualified Draftsmen or Architects who might be prepared to come out to this country. At the moment, the Architects in South Africa need qualified men to cope with the building programme in the next five to ten years. In some instances we have been able to obtain Architectural assistants from England, but owing to my Association and service with the American forces during the war, I thought of addressing you in the matter. There are two methods adopted in connection with such qualified Architectural As-

sistants, depending, of course, upon their qualifications.

- (a) Salary plus 6-monthly bonus. The general salary today for a qualified man being anything from £45 to £75 a month, and bonus of course depending entirely upon his value in the office.
- (b) Salary from £40 to £60 a month plus a percentage on such parts of the work executed in the office by the Assistant. This, of course, would only apply to a fully qualified Architect, and would bring to such a man anything from £75 to £125 a month if of the right type.

Naturally conditions in South Africa are somewhat different and it would take some months for

anybody coming out here to get a grip of the differences and regulations, etc. The American Consulate hold that there would be no difficulty under the present emergency in obtaining a passage and permission to land.

The arrangements naturally would have to be made for suitable accommodation for such Assistants and family, if any.

I would appreciate having your earliest reply if there is any possibility of suitable men being found to come out to this country. The conditions gener-

ally in South Africa are reasonably good, but the cost of living is fairly high, as the average European maintains a fairly high standard of living.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

M. F. STERN.

Please address any inquiries to the office of the Director of Public and Professional Relations at The Octagon.



Department of Education and Research

WALTER A. TAYLOR, *Director*

THEODORE IRVING COE, *Technical Secretary*

A Preview of the Industry-Engineered House

IN SEPTEMBER a number of popular and home magazines of large nation-wide circulation will give extensive publicity to the Industry-Engineered House. This program, originated and developed jointly during the past two years by The Producers' Council and the National Retail Lumber Dealers' Association, is a matter of interest to most of the architectural profession. The Institute's Board of Directors has instructed the Department of Education and Research to analyze and report on the program in its present state of development.

The Institute staff, through the Joint Committee of The A.I.A. and The Producers' Council, has been fully informed regarding the project during the design development period. Institute representatives have objected to the use of the term "Engineered" in the name, but so far to no avail, apparently because the idea had been sold to elements of the building industry under that name. The term "Modular House" would be simpler, more correctly descriptive and more easily learned and accepted by the public.

The following analysis attempts to weigh the features, merits and deficiencies of the scheme, and the claims and promises made by its promoters. In general, it appears to merit candid open-minded consideration by the architectural profession.

What It Is Not

It is not a stock-plan scheme, although a few typical plans will be used in the publicity to illustrate principles. The Producers' Council, promoting the program will not "sell" plans, but there is of

course nothing to prevent any architect, contractor or lumber dealer from applying the principles in the development of stock plans to be sold in a given locality or region.

It is not prefabrication in the generally accepted sense of the word. Although it involves more standardization of small units of commonly available materials and a higher percentage of mill or factory man-hours than ordinary construction, it is still essentially a field assembly system, streamlined.

The program has no financial or political implications or obligations. It is a purely technical improvement in house-building. Economic benefits will accrue to the owner through increased standardization, mass production in the factory and on the job, improved marketing methods, simplified overhead and speedier construction.

It is not an untried, newly-invented system of construction. It is rather the carefully studied coordination of some older standards and materials with several recent improvements in planning and construction which have developed more or less independently.

It is not monopolistic. The principles may be applied by any producer, dealer, architect or builder.

Objectives

The primary purpose of the program is to reduce the cost of building homes, by bringing to the individual owner and the small-scale builder the economic benefits of standardization and mass production heretofore possible only in prefabrication or in large-scale operations.

Essential Features

The design method is based upon two interlocking modular systems, each of which is used both horizontally and vertically.

As a major planning module the older 4 ft. unit is quite fully accepted for the principal dimensions inside the exterior walls, and floor to ceiling, permitting the continuous use of floor, wall and ceiling materials in dry construction, in customary 4' x 4' units, multiples or intermediate stock sizes.

It also uses fully the new 4-in. module of Modular Coordination, to which many manufactured building materials and units now conform. This permits a reasonable choice of materials and units, with economy due to almost complete elimination of cutting and fitting of materials of large or small dimensions.

Standardized Span

Acceptance of these modular standards only would leave a considerable degree of flexibility in planning. A more definite limitation, however, is imposed. A clear span of 16 ft. for one dimension of each building unit or wing, is based on the most readily available lumber length, 18 ft. With the 4-ft. module, the other dimension may be any multiple of 4 ft.

Standardizing on 2 x 10's for the 16-ft. floor spans eliminates interior piers or girders. Simple trusses of 2 x 6's with 2 x 4 ties provide 16-ft. clear spans, permitting complete freedom for interior space division by means of floor-assembled non-bearing stud partitions, studless prefabricated non-bearing partitions, or the use of storage wall units. Exterior wall studs at customary 16-in. or 24-in. spacing accommodate modular stock doors and windows, insulation and wallboards with almost no cutting.

Mechanical Equipment

Heating will be by a variety of packaged units, located in basement or main floor utility room. The greatest economy will be in the back-to-back kitchen-bathroom prefabricated units, designed for the modular limitations, and the 8-ft. ceiling height. Competing producers will no doubt bring forth various units of their own design, in economy and deluxe models, conforming to the general limitations of the system.

Design Flexibility

Within the modular and span limitations, great

variety is possible in plan, materials and equipment. The house may be of one or two stories, or combination of one- and two-story units, with or without basement. The exterior walls may be of frame, masonry veneer, solid or cavity-wall masonry. The roof may be flat or low-pitched.

Appraisal

America's housing needs are so vast and so urgent that all possible means to meet them quickly and economically should be used.

The modular house is a voluntary autonomous effort by important elements of the building industry to find a technical solution of the economic problems of housing.

This effort by a segment of the industry may answer, partially at least, the criticism that the building industry clings to archaic procedures and techniques.

While much of the anticipated economy is inherent in the planning principles, time and method studies will be made on six identical houses to be built successively by the Small Homes Council of the University of Illinois, in an effort to develop more efficient erection techniques.

The various types of group housing, large developments and prefabrication will continue to provide large amounts of the needed housing units, with or without the modular principles. However, the principles and economies of the modular house program may be applied also to isolated houses, small groups, and in the large portion of the housing market where greater variety and some freedom for individual design are in demand.

The Architect's Position in the Program

Architects H. O. Chapman, Jr., A.I.A. and Randolph Evans, A.I.A., were retained to design the houses to be used in the promotion and the experimental construction. The detailed application of modular principles to these designs was the work of Architect A. Gordon Lorimer, A.I.A., Technical Adviser to The Producers' Council.

While the architect has, of course, maintained his position in the numerically limited field of custom-designed houses, it is only within the last two decades that he has made such impact in the smaller house field. Groups of architects in many localities have been able to extend their services through small house service bureaus. Architects have been increasingly retained by contractors and real estate promoters for the design of group developments.

The modular house will probably have little effect on the architect's position in the housing field. The architect will use the principles and products of this program in all of the customary ways: Custom-designed house for individual client; repetitive plans with individual modification through service bureaus; series of repetitive plans with exterior variations for group developments.

This program will probably give some impetus to the practice of plan selling by lumber dealers and department stores, with emphasis upon modular principles and products. In general this cannot be prevented. Objectionable features of this procedure can be met or counteracted in two ways: By insistence that competent and well-trained architects be retained for the designing and some degree of super-

vision, with recognition of the architect in the publicity; or, by setting up small house service agencies by groups of architects; or, by adding modular plans to the offerings of such agencies already in existence, emphasizing the personal professional service generally not included in the lumber-yard plan schemes.

In general the modular house program gives reasonable promise of economy through standardization of commonly available materials, adaptable to the whole range of design, construction and selling procedures, but with much to be gained in the lower-cost range.

The above is an informative analysis and does not represent A.I.A. approval or disapproval. It is strongly recommended that the name "Modular House" be adopted to replace the term now used.

Building Type Reference Guide No. 3

The Library Building

ATTENTION is directed to the word "reference" in the titles of the Guides. The principle announced in Reference Guide No. 1 in the March BULLETIN, page 25, is repeated, paraphrased to refer to library buildings:

This building type guide does not attempt to set up rigid technical standards and plan data, because on a national scale they do not exist. There are many regional and local variations due to climate and topography, and in the organization and techniques of *library service*.

The purposes of this Guide are to assist the general practitioner in self-education by:

Reporting the most authoritative opinions on theories and trends in *library practices*, in order that he may

Participate in basic *library surveys* and planning in his community from the earliest stages, with an informed and sympathetic attitude,

Anticipating trends which may not yet have appeared in the thinking and planning of his particular local clients, so that he may plan for

Flexibility required by present standards and for probable changes in method and organization of *library service* during the life of the building in order that he and his clients may

Avoid early functional obsolescence, thereby making the building a better long-term investment.

THE LIBRARY SITUATION

Librarians as a profession are anything but complacent about the services they render and the opportunities and facilities for providing service.

The American Library Association's special Committee on Post-war Planning concludes, after a two-year study, that most public libraries in the United States are inadequate, understaffed, housed in outmoded buildings, lack sufficient books and in general do not meet the needs of their communities.

The Committee finds that 50 million people are served by generally adequate libraries, most of which however do not have the desired \$1 per capita annual financial support. 46 million people are served by libraries having inadequate service areas and financial support. 35 million Americans have no public libraries, 92% of them living in small villages and open country. The report notes that in 9 states there are now more people without public libraries than in 1925.

The report calls for an immediate annual outlay of \$140,000,000 to make libraries effective, as well

as \$400,000,000 to build new libraries and modernize old buildings, and \$150,000,000 for books and equipment.

The Committee's recommendations for library buildings are summarized on page 34 of this BULLETIN.

SYMPOSIUM ON LIBRARY SERVICES AND BUILDING REQUIREMENTS

WHAT IS A LIBRARY?

Libraries are not "institutions" in the sense that schools are. There is no compulsion, other than interest and free will, to enter its doors. Just as a publisher tries to make the look of a book as persuasive as possible to the potential purchaser, so the builder of a library tries to make it a friendly, welcoming building that looks as if it wanted to offer every man what he is looking for. (L. H. Smith)

The Public Library is a peculiar institution; its role is educational and recreational, yet it lacks exact definition. Nor do librarians wish to be too precise about its function. Definitions like written constitutions can prove to be boomerangs. In the public library's flexibility lies its strength. Sudden changes in world events, as in the outbreak of war, or the coming of peace; in community events as in strikes and disasters; in national events as in new legislation, are all challenges to the public library to provide instantly the information needed by its citizens.

In general terms the library's function is to provide information and recreation through reading for all ages, to contribute to education, especially of adults, to provide means for research, and through all these to enrich the lives of our citizens. This is done through books, primarily, and at one time solely, but also over the years as other media have become important educational and cultural aids and as the public have needed them, through magazines, newspapers, maps, picture collections; travel, trade and gardening literature; recordings of music and speech; films; art and handicraft exhibitions; lectures, discussion groups, forums, etc. The public library is peculiarly necessary in a democracy; if we are literally to govern ourselves, an enlightened citizenry is necessary and this can be achieved only by continuous reading, thought and discussion resulting in intelligent action.

When school days are over the public library

becomes the agent for self-education which can keep our citizens informed on all of the questions of the day. (Hume)

OBSOLETE LIBRARY BUILDINGS

Many, perhaps most, of the libraries built thirty to forty years ago are now obsolete, or at least outgrown, not only because the importance of considering function in planning public buildings was given less emphasis then than now, but also because libraries have in the interim greatly enlarged their collections and developed new services. (Waldon)

Another thing which tends to make for non-functioning libraries is the fact that too many architects seem to be under the impression that if they build a library like one already existing it will be good. Mistakes should be profited by, not promulgated. (Cundiff)

The greatest mistake made by architects in building libraries has been to design a building that is first of all of monumental character both inside and out, and secondarily functional. Functional needs, service usages and space requirements of library buildings are so constantly changing from month to month and year to year that built-in interior architectural treatment inevitably results in a limitation of the library's useful life without any corresponding advantage to the library's purpose. (Macdonald)

PLANNING FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ADULT EDUCATION

Since a branch library has greater significance in its district, it can become a very useful cultural community center. For this reason an auditorium might be provided where, for instance, the garden enthusiasts could gather for lectures on horticulture to supplement book information, and the local music celebrity could give a recital. A record and film library (probably loans from the Main Library) will attract the men especially and

the films can lead to fine discussions of the problems of the day. Small exhibits of paintings, prints, handicrafts and hobbies will greatly stimulate the use of books and perhaps lead to a program of adult education in a local school. (Hume)

The adult education movement affects the public library greatly and demands that there shall be rooms for group discussion which will not disrupt regular library service. (Cundiff)

Libraries are among the most important agencies for community adult education and should provide the latest facilities for adult education. These include provision for audio-visual material, small auditorium, conference rooms, projection room, and sound-proof listening rooms for phonograph records. (Wyer)

Small auditoriums in branches and a large one in the main building are necessities if adult education work utilizing audio-visual materials is used. (Deily)

THE LIBRARY AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The potential number of children who will use a children's library is an important factor in its planning, and this is readily ascertained. All children go to school, and a census of the schools that are within reasonable walking distance of the library will give the number of children in attendance. Ninety per cent of those whose homes are within a half-mile radius of the library, and less than fifty per cent of those in the second half-mile radius, will "join" the children's library. This determines the floor space needed, the size of the service desk and what the seating facilities should be. (L. H. Smith)

In contrast to college students whose needs are usually met in separate college libraries, public school children are most active patrons of public libraries. Their requirements when they come to the public library, are usually well-defined by their teachers. There is increasing cooperation between teachers and librarians and more definite provision for school children of all ages, in the form of special collections, exhibits and activity rooms.

Another relationship which affects planning is service to school libraries which, in the larger cities, requires in the main library building special school service facility, including stacks, work space and truck loading dock. (Ed.)

COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL LIBRARY PLANNING

After two years of study, a long range master plan of library facilities has been developed and approved by the Detroit Library Commission and the Detroit City Plan Commission. This joint study indicates the location of 30 branch libraries which will provide a comprehensive distribution system covering all residential sections of the city; 8 new branch libraries in areas now unserved; relocating 13 branches in more accessible service areas; 9 remaining in present location. Plans for remodelling and additions to main building are included in the project. (*A.L.A. Bulletin*, Feb. '46 Page 71)

This is typical of comprehensive studies recently made or now in progress in many larger cities. (Ed.)

The library should be planned to give service for about 25 years before extensions are required, this being a figure carefully arrived at by city planners, architects and librarians. In the meantime it might be possible to use certain floor space on the second and basement floors for exhibition, special services and small auditorium purposes while an active Art Association or Citizen's Committee vigorously agitates for a municipal auditorium and an art gallery which would relieve the congestion which the years will bring to the library building. (Hume)

LOCATION OF MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The (library) building should be as centrally located as possible, even to the extent of being in the very heart of business activities. Libraries are being used more and more for research and quick information by industrial, business and professional people, and it is believed that this service will increase. The building should also be constructed so that the main floor is on street level, with the least amount of interference (H. A. Knowlson, *A.L.A. Bulletin*, April '45, Page 149)

Long experience with successful libraries and bitter experience with the unsuccessful ones has shown over and over again that the best sites are located in an attractive shopping center, at or very near a traffic intersection, or where there is some other reason for the consistent maximum flow of pedestrian traffic.

Preferably the site should be in the heart of this district, not just around the corner from it. In short, the way to choose the best site for a library is to imagine that you are an ambitious business man, determined to retire young with a fortune, choosing a site for a busy store.

If compromise is necessary, compromise on the building rather than on the site.

Resist the well-intentioned but unsound and sentimental arguments of those who advocate placing libraries within public parks or gardens, or with a group of civic buildings, away from the shopping center.

Except in small projects, the library is best placed on its own site adjoining other activities. If it forms a part of the main building, a separate entrance is desirable. No practical advantage of being allied with other community buildings which are badly located from the library viewpoint. (R. D. H. Smith)

A library plant on a residential or secondary street may be initial economy in cost of site, but in the perspective of daily use it is poor business, because large numbers of people do not travel on such streets. In terms of pedestrian or passenger use, a secondary street is a place where people build homes, where one finds an occasional neighborhood grocery or drugstore, or it may be a manufacturing center. The man who would select a side street for a business that exists by people using it, would go bankrupt. To put a public utility like a library there would be to ask such unit to succeed where he would expect to fail. A secondary location directly reduces the value of the investment, which is the dollars paid by the taxpayer. (Campbell and Goodwin)

No great quantity of people will seek out the library, but well located, it has been known to attract as high as fifty per cent of the population with a radius on one mile.

Therefore, the library must be placed where people are or where they gather to take street car or bus to and from the city. No piece of land, even if donated, is cheap if it does not conform to the qualifications mentioned above. The herd instinct is strong in all humans. To see others using a library easily and frequently is a strong incentive for many to do likewise. Retail merchants have studied the mass movement of people in relation to selling, and central and convenient

location is even more important to a library than to a retail store. (Robinson)

SITE

More attention should be paid to planning buildings close to the walk and without so many steps so that the library patrons can get to the loan desk and back out on the street in the shortest possible time.

Libraries should get away from side streets and parks and be located in less spacious quarters on the main drag just like department stores and moving picture houses. If the footage available is narrow the building should be a number of stories high. This will entail some elevator service. (Deily)

Libraries must, of course, be accessible to the greatest possible number of people whether they come by automobile, use the public transportation system or walk. These requirements usually dictate a downtown location, but this has many disadvantages, such as high cost of ground, noise and dirt, and the inappropriateness of the usual library type of architecture in the midst of commercial skyscrapers. The logic of a downtown location seems to dictate a skyscraper type of library building, possibly with the ground floor and a number of upper floors rented for immediate income and yet providing potential future expansion. The provision of automobile parking space, probably below ground, should not be overlooked in planning a library building no matter where it is located. (Macdonald)

The location of any library should be such that it is susceptible of almost indefinite expansion. (Rader)

BRANCH LIBRARIES

Public libraries would do well not to plan too large a central building but to arrange to have a number of branches strategically placed. Librarians should consult the best advice as to the probable growth and direction of population development. Library patrons will not go much farther than a mile for library service. (Cundiff)

The main building must continue in the center of the business district with branch buildings in residential shopping centers. A branch should compare with a super market with parking facilities. (Galvin)

THE LIBRARY AS PART OF COMMUNITY CENTER

It will not be considered good policy to erect buildings in smaller municipalities unless the library shares in a carefully worked out county or regional library scheme, based on a population of around 25,000 within the boundaries served, thus ensuring the services of trained personnel from the administrative headquarters and a continuous flow of new books. Architects would do well to discourage those small villages, wishing to honor their service sons and daughters, from erecting libraries in their honor unless they are part of such a larger unit with a chance to survive and mean something in community life.

Considering the library as a unit of a community center, if the latter establishment is on firm financial ground the inclusion of a library would seem a logical thing provided it has its own budget of sufficient size. But again, if in a small municipality it should be linked with some form of regional or cooperative service.

The planning of a library for a community center should be done as carefully as for a separate library building where one would expect professional advice to be sought from librarians. And its function will be the same as for any other library. (Hume)

In smaller communities the possibility should be explored of building the library as part of a community center building.

Place the building in the community where it can function most effectively rather than necessarily in the geographic or activity center.

Plan size of the building in relation to the expected size of community and based on a collection of books equal to one to three per capita. (Herdman)

BRANCH LIBRARIES IN HOUSING PROJECTS

Baldwin Hills Village, Los Angeles area, which contains 634 apartments, has a lending library in the Community Building. This is run at a profit, supplementing the small salary, by the person in charge of Community facilities. The library occupies a space of about 200 square feet. (Robert E. Alexander, A.I.A.)

In Chicago Altgeld Gardens, 1,500 unit negro housing project, has a branch of the Public Library. The Julius C. Lathrop Homes, also

operated by the Chicago Housing Authority, has a library which is not a branch of the Chicago Public Library system. (Jerrold Loeb, A.I.A.)

The National Housing Agency reports that approximately 25% of low rent housing projects have public libraries on the site. 30% of war housing projects have public libraries on the site. Another study by the National Housing Agency indicates that 33 out of 76 low-rent and war housing projects have lending libraries on the site, although only 2/3 of these projects are of permanent construction.

GENERAL PLANNING OF THE LIBRARY BUILDING

Neither architecture or equipment can begin to be so important as the basic process of planning and properly relating the departments or elements in the library building, according to the organization and activities. In numerous cases the library has been planned with so little analysis and understanding of these relationships, by either librarian or architect, that serious errors have been frozen into steel and stone to handicap library users for years to come. (Wheeler)

Seldom does a librarian have an opportunity to plan more than one building. This means that there are no real building experts within the profession and that there is very little cumulative wisdom bought to bear on proposed buildings. Almost everyone starts from scratch and almost everyone makes the same mistakes that have been made before. (Jesse)

Library planners can learn much from museums and department stores.

From museums—publication display and sales space, film viewing rooms, display techniques, consultation room, parking room, motor entrance, and off the curb unloading.

From the department store—ease of entrance, avoidance of steps and ramps, the study of location in terms of frequency of traffic. Service positions and service drives should be provided for off-curb delivery and service from main library to branches.

Visibility and sense of openness on entering.

Planning with the out-of-doors—library patios and gardens and outdoor story hour areas are found in as diverse climates as Portland, Maine; Pasadena, California; and Agnes Scott College, Macon, Georgia. (Quigley)

We have come to consider the survey and the written program the critical points in proper library planning . . . The consultant can be expected to review the final preliminary plan, but normally the preparation of the plans should be left in the hands of the architect and the librarian. The principal job of the consultant is to help in the formation of a well-thought-out and clearly stated program. (Jesse)

Architects should work hand in glove with the librarian who will have charge of the proposed building. I think it is unwise to begin building a building until the librarian has been appointed. (Deily)

To obtain the best results now there must be cooperation between architects and library authorities. The latter must define the purpose and function of their libraries, estimate future expansion and set out their requirements in detail. The architect will then be able to build four walls around the collections and services of the library with the assurance that a more satisfactory building will result than is the case when a library is required to fit itself into a building conceived primarily as a handsome piece of architecture. (Waldon)

Efficiency in operation is one of the three primary factors entering into the operation of any library. From 50 per cent to 70 per cent of operating costs of a public library go into salaries or services, the balance going into books and building maintenance. (Robinson)

A few large public service rooms are preferable to many small rooms as each room will have to be supervised and this cost curtails real service and materials. (Cundiff)

For a public library the most essential element of the library plan is to arrange on the main floor as many of the adult services as is possible. This is a convenience to the patrons and also simplifies administration.

Planning considerations: A much simpler approach to the building. The elimination of entrance steps with a side-walk entrance if possible, and with halls and corridors reduced to a minimum; the separation of facilities for youth and high school age and emphasis on service to children; flexibility throughout the entire building by the elimination of solid partitions when possible and movable partitions substituted. (Wyer)

Place all public services relative distances from the entrance according to the amount of use given the service.

Divide the space within the library into large areas which can function effectively architecturally, and subdivide these areas by temporary partitions which can be adjusted as the different services change and expand.

Plan interiors from the standpoint of the easiest movement of materials and people.

Plan shipping and service entrance in relation to its accessibility and convenience for the departments which use it. (Herdman)

A committee of the Assembly of Librarians of the Americas recommended that the occupational and recreational facilities of libraries be properly emphasized, and that an effort be made to establish the library as a focal point for the social and recreational activities of both urban communities and rural districts.

BOOK SERVICES

The patronage of the best libraries is tending to be more and more by people having serious interests, such as pure and applied scientists, sociologists, industrialists, researchers, inventors, business men, mechanics, artisans, and students of all kinds. The patronage of people looking for purely recreational reading, although still large, is tending to be less important. Some librarians think that the provision of materials for recreational reading should be left to the commercial concerns that make a business of furnishing such books on a rental basis. Probably better support can be obtained for the libraries when they are still more fully devoted to serious usages and have made their usefulness known to those who control financial support. (Macdonald)

Reading rooms should be smaller and more specialized. There should be separate combination of reference and reading rooms for each of the large classifications of knowledge instead of the one huge reading room. (Deily)

The plan of the main rooms usually takes on a modular aspect, with the module or unit of measurement a three-foot length of bookcase section.

Windows and bookcases are friendly rivals in the library room. Quite often in the past, bookcases were considered as furniture, and kept out-

side the jurisdiction of the architect. Library boards are now well aware that they should become an integral part of the design.

In adult rooms, six shelves high is considered standard practice. Librarians point out that the books on the lowest shelves are much less used than those on the uppermost shelves. For that reason the bottom shelf should not be too close to the floor. Fiction books and those of a similar size usually are estimated to run ten to the foot when the shelf is filled. In the boys' and girls' room 5'6" is considered the maximum height of bookcase units. All shelving should be adjustable, with an average depth of 9" in the adult and 8" in the boys' and girls'. (Eadie)

Provision for casualty protection of rare books and other materials.

Browsing room attractively designed and equipped.

Research alcoves and cubicles strategically placed in relation to stacks. (Van Derpool)

NON-BOOK SERVICES

We might as well face the fact that there are two schools of thought: one says "book service only," the other believes where other agencies are not providing and apparently can not provide cultural services for the community the library should do so. (Hume)

Adequate controlled space for use and display of slide collections, films, photographs, colored facsimiles, drawings, prints, charts, maps and manuscripts, with ample storage and maintenance facilities. (Van Derpool)

AUDIO-VISUAL

The music division may have listening rooms where records may be enjoyed. It has collections of sheet music, librettos and orchestrations. These may be borrowed, but the records are lent only to groups. In some libraries a loan service for individuals has been established. Concerts of recorded music are held occasionally. (Steinbarger)

The great success of audio-visual material in training for World War II has established such materials in a strong position, and it is an established principle that libraries are responsible for providing audio-visual material just as they are for providing books. (Macdonald)

I believe that audio-visual material is definitely a library problem, and should be considered in all new plans. (Cundiff)

Library audio-visual services will continue to grow in importance, and use of these materials should be planned in every building. The conference rooms and auditorium mentioned for adult education purposes with a special room for lending and storing films are needed. (Galvin)

Music study room for use and storage of phonographic equipment and files of records. (Van Derpool)

Phonograph recordings perform a great public service in response to the demand for music, poetry readings, and foreign language instruction . . . The public's solicitous care in handling discs and willingness to pay small fees contribute to the preservation of the collection and to its enlargement. (Hart)

Music as a means of communication—that is, printed or manuscript scores, phonograph records, textbooks, treatises, biographies, etc.—belongs in libraries on a par with the traditional printed book. (Waters)

MICROFILM

With library service still in its developmental period, a good deal of emphasis seems due to flexibility in plan . . . Libraries are faced on the one hand with expansion and multiplication of services, calling for a variety of new facilities. On the other hand, certain of the demands upon them will shrink if micro-recording becomes to any great extent the basis of their stack. Either one of these prospects would be difficult to provide for. Together, they are baffling. The only prudent answer would seem to be to leave the way open and the walls down for as much future planning and adapting as possible. (Reece)

The microfilming of printed matter permits great space condensation and a tremendous broadening of the supply of valuable material that would otherwise be inaccessible on account of cost or scarcity. However, microfilms will probably not ever take the place of printed books in the predictable future. (Macdonald)

Facilities for use of microfilm machines and services. (Van Derpool)

Microfilm can be utilized in any building. Fire-proof storage of rare item microfilm and news-

paper microfilm with proper humidification is advisable but not imperative. (Galvin)

Microfilming is valuable not only to research libraries but to public libraries as well. (Hart)

The growing use of microfilm in libraries, its advantage in conserving space and in preserving records published on paper of poor quality, suggest a project to reproduce on microfilm all important American and foreign newspapers. Microfilm should last as long as the best rag paper. (Schwegeman)

In view of the dangers to printed and manuscript materials which exist, notably in the tropics, it is wise to reproduce valuable materials on microfilm, and distribute it conveniently to various libraries. (Cea)

MODULAR

There has been much talk and some planning of library buildings using the modular idea as propounded by Snead & Company two or three years ago. While there are strong advocates of this idea who do not really understand the implications, and other opponents who are equally ignorant, it does seem to present one approach to solving the question of making space usable regardless of the changing aspects of the library.

Taken into consideration with air conditioning and improved lighting, the modular form of construction should make it possible for the library to be a useful building many years longer, if there are radical changes in the type of materials and type of service rendered by the library. (Parker)

The modular type of construction for libraries is preferable to that of other forms since it permits extreme flexibility in the arrangement of space for staff, readers and books. Every library building should be planned for the services which have to be performed and in order that the building may be functional, the architect and librarian should work in close collaboration. (Law)

Adaptable construction furnishes a maximum of free space within the enclosing walls, space which is adaptable to the needs of the moment, without the necessity of expensive and messy alterations.

Under this system of construction, the old terms of reading room and stackroom and catalog room and reference room disappear from the vocabulary. A library building becomes simply an area

of usable floor space surrounded by walls. What individual units of this floor space are to be used for depends upon the needs of the time. A given square foot may be part of reader space today; it may be used for book storage tomorrow; and five years hence it may be a corner in a professor's study room. (Randall).

OTHER SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Plans should include a recreation center and smoking room for the public. (Rader)

One of the most interesting cooperative ventures is that of the Actors' Equity Association and the New York Public Library in presenting plays at twelve of the Library's branches. Just ending its first year in operation, this Equity Library Theater has been of mutual benefit to the Library and its patrons and to New York actors, directors and designers.

The Library's twelve branch stages, complete with lights, curtains and simple settings, make it the second largest owner of theaters in New York.

The plays are produced, directed, acted and designed by theater people who are interested in experimenting. (*A.L.A. Bulletin*, May '45, Page 178)

Readers' typing facilities adjacent to, and controlled through, the reading rooms.

Adequate space for public participation in lectures, conferences, demonstrations and exhibitions. (Van Derpool)

EFFECT OF MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT ON PLANNING

Consider the importance of air-conditioning for the storage and preservation of materials, in addition to the comfort of the library users. And from this latter point of view, study the most comfortable differences between outside and inside atmospheres. (Herdman)

Patrons and staff members are both becoming more critical of conditions in the building, particularly as related to lighting. There are almost no library buildings constructed prior to 1940 which, by present standards, have adequate lighting. This is particularly true in the high ceilinged monumental reading rooms which have been so much a favorite of architects.

There will probably come into use during the next few years a system of book charging which

will involve the piping of cables from circulation desks to a central control room. These cables will be approximately one inch in diameter. (Parker)

The modern achievements in lighting equipment, air conditioning and supply, sound absorption, movable space divisions and functional, comfortable furniture, rather than ornamental, have made it possible to secure everything the readers and staff need without providing for exterior and interior light courts, which are expensive both in original cost and maintenance. Elevators and escalators make skyscraper libraries possible and logical for downtown locations. Why not a library building that will rival one of the great ones of Rockefeller Center, that can be operated largely with the money obtained from the tax-free rental of its lower stories (perhaps legal permission will be necessary and obtainable), and in which the staff and readers can be taken care of in quiet, easily accessible areas that have charm derived from simple, colorful and comfortable equipment and expansive views on all sides? (Macdonald)

Installation of electric dust-control equipment, air conditioning and sound retarding devices. (Van Derpool)

Special services to patrons—include public telephone booths, baggage lockers, envelope and stamp dispensers.

Acoustical treatment and soundproofing—the objective would be to eliminate “silence” signs, and while it is desirable to bring the machines to the work in the case of mechanical aids, those which originate considerable noise such as sorting machines should be in soundproof rooms. (Quigley)

MAINTENANCE

Libraries have long hours of public service and it is difficult to schedule maintenance. Everything possible should be done to simplify maintenance, avoid materials which require polishing, avoid such floor space under shelves as cannot easily be cleaned, use simple flush trim wherever possible. (Quigley)

FACILITIES FOR THE STAFF

Rooms for the physical comfort and recreation of members of the professional staff of the library should be included in the plans. (Rader)

More attention is being given to convenient facilities for staff rest rooms and lounge. These should include simple kitchen equipment and dining room. Many libraries which have started restaurants have not found it advisable to continue as the costs are too great for the patronage. (Wyer)

A small kitchen with refrigeration will help to solve the refreshment and luncheon problems for staff personnel. (Galvin)

There should be no distinction between the library staff and readers in planning for mental and physical comfort and efficiency. Both require and should have quick access to the material they want, the best of light, fresh air, quiet, and comfortable, efficient furniture. (Macdonald)

Staff lounge including serving pantry and emergency room.

Closer study of the complex “behind the scenes” library functions to provide ample working space and office areas. (Van Derpool)

Careful study for complete control by *minimum staff*, of access to, and use of, materials is highly important. (Van Derpool)

Facilities for staff and trustees—a well-appointed trustee’s room may serve also as a reception room for reception of authors and other semi-social occasions, also as a special collection room and adult or young people’s seminar room. Simple but adequate facilities for staff members for lunching, rest, and sudden illness. (Quigley)

CONSULTANTS

Since many architects and librarians may have a chance to build a library only once in a lifetime, they should not be too proud to call in an experienced consultant. Library planning is a difficult and intricate business. (Waldon)

SPECIAL LIBRARIES

The special library should be located within the parent organization so that its services are available to all functions. Features such as quiet atmosphere, adequate light, and pleasant surroundings are important. The architectural design is determined by its services and purpose. The nature of any library’s holdings influences provisions for files and cabinets in addition to

shelf space, storage, and processing equipment. However, the utilitarian atmosphere may well be infused with beauty of design. Knowing that the library will expand in proportion to the organization which it serves, future needs must be adapted by the architect and librarian when the library first evolves in their minds.

Book collections for recreational, inspirational, and educational reading by employees exist in many plants removed from areas having adequate public library service. Others, in metropolitan areas, are taking advantage of extension service offered them by public libraries. (Strieby)

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Librarians are too prone to try to reproduce existing buildings—mistakes and all. There are very few distinctive and original college and university libraries in the United States.

We still labor under the illusion that a library is a library, and that a man who knows something about public library buildings automatically is also an authority on college and university libraries, and vice versa. It isn't true.

We urge librarians faced with a building program to call in a library consultant who will be capable of making a careful and thorough survey of the college or university's needs and problems and also capable of assisting in the writing of the program before it is given to the architect for execution. (Jesse)

THE UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE LIBRARY IN A UNIVERSITY

Columbia College Library has always been conceived of as a collection of books especially gathered and administered for the undergraduate students. The library authorities have never sought to establish in its place the practice of a "delivery room" where textbooks and assigned readings are dealt out to students over a counter.

We are all agreed that to know how to find one's way among books accessible to the hand and the eye is an integral part of the liberal education. (A College Program in Action, Page 79.)

LIBRARIES VS. ARCHIVES BUILDINGS

"Archival materials are collections of official records relating to some body or individual, which are organized and preserved so as to keep the identity of the original body. Whereas the library is concerned with the ultimate consumer—the reader—the archival agency emphasizes convenience and identity. However, archival materials are increasingly organized so as to serve as sources of information on past human activities. Often, however, the functions of the library and the archival agency overlap.

"Because of the difference in materials and approach it is desirable that archival agencies and libraries be kept separate whenever possible."

Dr. Solon Buck, United States National Archives, speaking at the Assembly of Librarians of the Americas. (May, 1947).

The Public Library Building Program

By Carleton B. Joeckel

Excerpts from Chapter 10 in "A National Plan for Public Library Service," prepared for The Committee on Postwar Planning of the American Library Association, Chicago, 1947.

PLANNING for library buildings should be related to over-all postwar plans for state and local areas and should be integrated with local, state, and federal public works programs.

The physical plant of the present library system is only about 50 per cent adequate. The public library building needs of the nation may be classified in the following major categories:

1. New buildings are needed for the very extensive areas populated by the 35,000,000 people now

entirely without public library service. These areas are largely rural and are often sparsely populated. Service to the people of such regions will require many headquarters buildings and large numbers of small library buildings, some of which may be combined with community centers or schools.

2. A large number of obsolete library buildings, in cities large and small, should be replaced by modern, functional structures. Many of these buildings were erected before the first World War and are now well over thirty years old.

3. Even in cities and counties with established

library systems, many additional branch library buildings are needed. In New York City, for example, a recent survey shows that capital outlays amounting to about \$10,000,000 are needed for new branch sites and buildings, with nearly \$4,000,000 more budgeted for the initial book stocks of these branches.

4. Finally, there remains the task of remodeling, modernization, and enlargement of American public library buildings. Hundreds of existing libraries are antiquated, outgrown, and ill-adapted to modern needs. In view of the high average age of public library buildings in the country, the financial requirements of this program of renovation and enlargement may approach rather closely the capital sums needed for new buildings.

Only a complete nation-wide inventory could determine accurately the amounts actually required under each of the above classes of building needs. The best available estimates of the capital outlays required to bring the public library building plant of the nation up to standard fix the total need at approximately \$400,000,000. . . . Building costs have risen materially since these calculations were made, and the estimated amount required for public library buildings today may be fixed at \$500,000,000 or more.

Types of Public Library Buildings

The large unit library, the essential element in a nation-wide plan for effective library service, will require several different types of library buildings. The national library plan proposes a total of approximately 1,200 library administrative units, each with an appropriate number of branches as outlets. The most important types are:

The headquarters building—The focal point of each library unit should be a modern, functional headquarters or central building, planned for at least twenty years of expansion and community growth. In sections of the country where library service is introduced for the first time, strategic locations must be chosen for the headquarters building, and building plans must envisage large new areas of service. For some county library headquarters a location in a modern county government building, planned for library occupancy, may be a proper solution of the building problem. But in most situations both urban and county or regional library service may be provided most economically by developing a central building which will extend modern library service both to the city and to the region from a common center.

The regional branch—In the large-unit pattern, the regional branch with its extensive book collec-

tions will become an agency of strategic importance in many situations. In large cities the regional branch may function primarily as a service center for a group of smaller community branches in its region, but it may also function as an administrative center for the same group of branches. Pioneered by Chicago, with its three important regional branches, the regional branch is growing in favor. New York's branch plan provides for no less than eleven regional branches in the city's five boroughs. Likewise, the regional branch may also become an important cog in the distributing machine of the large county or multicounty library.

The community branch building—In the larger municipal libraries and in county and regional libraries the community branch will bring library service directly to the people at strategic points. Since branch buildings tend to follow more or less standardized patterns in many library systems, the branch building plan deserves unusually careful study. The branch library should not be a monumental structure and it must always be easily accessible, attractive in appearance, and efficient in interior arrangement. When population patterns are reasonably well matured, branch buildings will usually be permanent structures, with book collections of from 10,000 to 40,000 or more volumes. In less populous areas, smaller branches may prove adequate. In localities where population is shifting or where trends are uncertain, rented quarters may be preferable to permanent investment in buildings. Experimentation already under way with small prefabricated buildings may point to newer, more flexible types of small branch units especially adapted to use in county or regional libraries.

Library branches in community centers and schools—Under favorable conditions, branch libraries may sometimes be housed in buildings designed primarily for other functions, such as community centers, schools, or grange buildings. If such branches are planned for service both to adults and children, several important specifications must be made: A central and accessible location; library quarters near the entrance or with a separate entrance; adequate space for readers and collection; and convenient hours of opening. These combined service agencies make it possible to extend library service into many small communities. They take advantage of the common interests of users of the whole group of agencies, and they are obviously economical in construction cost and operation.

Bookmobiles—As the highway system of the country is extended and automotive equipment perfected, the use of the bookmobile or trailer will doubtless continue to increase. Service of this type is clearly indicated, not only in sparsely populated areas but also in many cities and metropolitan areas.

Regional reservoir libraries—Finally, to complete the public library building program, there is need for a chain of storage or reservoir libraries to house the surplus or little-used books of public and other

types of libraries. These buildings should be warehouses designed for the economical storage of large quantities of books no longer in active demand. The building of these reservoirs would permit libraries to clear their shelves of outmoded and obsolescent materials. The working efficiency of many libraries would be materially increased by this weeding process, but the volumes withdrawn from the various libraries would still be available in case of need. Funds for the reservoir libraries might be secured through federal and state public works programs, aided by contributions from participating libraries.

Essential Principles in Planning Library Buildings

In planning the various types of public library buildings for effective community use, certain principles should be recognized as basically important. Some of these principles essential in a national plan for library service may be summarized as follows:

1. The library building should be easily accessible to its potential clientele.—Location is all-important if the public library is to achieve its maximum usefulness. If a book can be picked up along with the day's groceries, it is likely to go into the shopping bag with the bread and butter. But if it is to be had only by climbing a monumental flight of steps, or by walking three blocks farther to the handsome residence converted into a library, or even by seeking the library in the center of the little green park, the book may remain unused on the library shelf.

2. The library building plan should be functional.—Fortunately, this principle is now generally accepted. The emerging concept of the public library building of today is quite different from that of yesterday. The modern public library is not a monumental showpiece but a working instrument designed to serve readers and to house its collection conveniently and efficiently.

3. Standard types of library buildings should be developed.—All public library buildings, of course, should not be alike. But several different types of buildings are closely similar in function, wherever they may be located. Special study should therefore be given to the development of building types which may be useful in many typical situations. New York City, for example, is planning a special type of large city branch adapted to the needs of a great metro-

politan area. The county library branch is another type of building which will be widely used. The small town library, which may serve as an independent library or perhaps later as a branch of a large-unit library, is another. Architectural competitions for the more important types of buildings and for buildings suitable to different climates might assist in developing standard plans usable in many different places.

4. Many public library buildings should be adaptable for expanded service in county or regional library systems.—As the large-unit library plan develops, many now independent public libraries will join or affiliate with county or regional libraries. Sometimes these libraries will serve as the headquarters for county libraries, sometimes as regional or community branches. This participation in a pattern of extended service will affect library building requirements in two ways. First, many persons outside the limits of the city or town in which the library is located will use the building. Second, the building should include necessary space for the headquarters of present or future extension activities.

5. The public library building of the future should be planned and equipped as a modern educational center.—The postwar public library will emphasize its functions as an educational agency. This fact has important implications for the library building. It must provide rooms for meetings and conferences of organizations and discussion groups of many kinds. It will need installations of audio-visual facilities and rooms where films may be shown, and sound-proof listening rooms where recordings may be heard. Space for these educational and group activities should be provided in all new buildings and in the enlargement of old ones.

Conclusion

If the national library plan is to approach reality, the library building program must be projected well into the future. This is difficult because the proposed pattern of library service is only partially complete. Yet this difficulty is in part offset by prospective postwar developments in building materials, lighting, and equipment, and also by a new spirit in architecture based on a definite purpose to fit the library building to the essential functions it performs.

Libraries and Book Collections as Living Memorials

THE CURRENT SENTIMENT in favor of "living memorials" is responsible for the popularity of memorial libraries and book collections. Many are already established. It is hoped that small communities will consider the greater economy and efficiency

gained through arrangements for cooperative service with nearby established library agencies, while independently maintaining the local library building as a memorial.

In most large cities, where new main library

buildings are needed, the cost of an adequate building would probably surpass what is usually spent for a memorial. But in some metropolitan areas, neighborhood branches will serve to commemorate the local war-dead. Memorial buildings will often be possible, however, in smaller communities. Typically, the library board is willingly to consider any memorial feature which "does not divert the primary purpose of the building."

First prize in a recent contest went to plans for a combination memorial library and recreation building.

Why a Library Memorial?

Carl Vitz, past president of the American Library Association, expressed some of the reasons thus:

"Libraries have many qualities peculiar to them which recommend them as memorials. They have always preserved the best that man has thought and done, so becoming memorials to the best in man. . . . The library's role does not change with the years; it will always be the democratic educational agency it now is. . . . Not all heroes are dead heroes; we should commemorate the men who return alive as well. . . . The universality of its service makes a library a fitting memorial to men who have died to preserve democracy. . . . By educating people to their national and international responsibilities, the library plays an important part in preventing future wars. . . . Because of its place in the community, the library can furnish the spot for some tangible monument; the roster of names. . . . The spirit of a library is in keeping with a memorial."

—Prepared by the American Library Association

The Client Says:—

ABOUT ECLECTIC MONUMENTALITY:

How exhilarating it would be to the whole library movement if the library buildings of the country could take on a new and more attractive aspect.

The popular notion that libraries are ultra-conservative and rather 'fuddy-duddy' in their views and methods is unquestionably influenced by the Victorian or 'end-of-the-century' style which characterizes a thousand libraries from New England to California. They leave the citizen unmoved by any admiration for the library as an up-to-date institution of (the) American democracy.

JOSEPH L. WHEELER

Editorial in *Library Journal*, July 1943.

The best examples of the past should, of course, be studied, but we should also take warning from the failures. We must have no more ill-lighted, ill-heated and ill-ventilated libraries with insufficient work and stack space, no more square boxes on stilts, no more sham Greek temples, no more imitations of H. H. Richardson's adaptations of French chateaux. We still want a pleasing exterior, especially an inviting entrance at ground level, but even more we want light, air, space, comfort for the reader, good working conditions for the staff.

FREDA F. WALDON

It is obvious that a library should look like a library, not like a collection of books that has arrived by mistake in a Greek temple or a Renaissance palace or a church or a gymnasium. If they can first clear their minds of vague preconceptions about civic dignity, "architectural features" and the like, library planners are on the way to achieving their ends. Otherwise they will find themselves moulding a service to fit the building instead of designing a building to fit the service. A memorable summary of the whole situation was made by E. J. Carter when he wrote: "Libraries should seem to say, not 'Look what I've got on' but rather 'Look what I am'."

This warning is very necessary. From big libraries to little ones we are cluttered up with sham archaeology. At Yale one of the great libraries of the world is housed inside a Gothic cliché; what redeems it to some extent is the superb stack-tower which, be it noted, belongs to no particular age or style but is the solution to a functional problem of book storage. At Seattle the University of the State of Washington has enclosed its books within a Netherlands cathedral. It may be beautiful, but it is not a library. It is grand and impressive and dim—so dim. In 1933 even the designers of the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore, in most respects representative of the best in modern library building, showed a strange hankering for antiquarianism by copying "a somewhat ornate ceiling" from the Vatican.

R. D. HILTON SMITH

The Carnegie era, with its monumental facade, majestically approached by multitudinous steps, was the forerunner of many quite interesting buildings meticulously designed in the historic stylized manner. It is all too true, however, that many of the plans were tightly bound to the traditional exterior design which tended to force the library requirements to conform to the building rather than have the building conform to the library requirements. In the modern scheme of things, it is important that the emphasis be placed upon the logical development of the plan and elevation to suit the needs of the building, the structural requirements and the modern use of materials, to all of which the skill of the designer is applied to produce a pleasing building.

ARTHUR H. EADIE

ABOUT ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER;

A library building may be thought of merely as a place in which to keep books; or it may be designed with such understanding and imagination that its mere physical form and presence stimulate and promote the kind of library programme needed by the people.

MARY U. ROTHROCK

The time has come to prove to our citizens that the public library is not a remote institution holding no attraction for the workingman nor the business man. It should be a place of warmth and friendliness with an informed staff that puts people first and routine second. Each citizen must realize that the library is there to help him with his informational, recreational and educational requirements.

All this the architect must express in the building he designs to house the library and its services. Gone are the days of the monumental building with its flights of marble stairs, its gaudy entrance, its turrets and towers, general air of aloofness and badly planned interior. In its place we want a building, friendly, inviting, and functional, in which suitability of site and placement, simple though distinguished lines, play of light and shade and use of materials all play their parts in creating a work of great beauty reflecting the spirit within.

ANNE HUME

In the library building, while utility is the prime essential, its architecture should maintain that standard, which is consistent with the dignified purpose of the building. Functional design should not be carried to extreme severity, and many of the affectations so prevalent in modern architecture should be avoided. In conclusion, it might be stated that the library building, not unlike the books which it contains must, to be good, possess lasting quality.

ARTHUR H. EADIE

In accepting what is called modern design care should be taken that these designs and materials are ones which will be lasting and not types which will become outmoded in a few years.

H. A. KNOWLSON,
A.L.A. Bulletin, April '45.

Existing library buildings are too monumental. Ceilings are too high, increasing cost of building and maintenance. We need functional buildings that appear comfortable, inviting and attractive. Blending a country club, a hotel lobby, a modern book store and a typical library in proper proportions should give the building we need.

HOYT R. GALVIN

ABOUT FUNCTIONAL PLANNING;

We have been building library buildings for a long time and, before we began, others were building them in older parts of the world. Yet it is almost a truism to say that the ideal library building has not been built. Indeed, it is more usual to discover that the newest building, lovingly and carefully planned, develops major faults as soon as its doors are opened, and that these faults grow in number and seriousness as the years go by . . . A library building is perfect only in the present, not in the past. Nothing is newer than a library; nothing reflects more vividly—or nothing should reflect more vividly—the ever-changing character of the agencies of written communication of knowledge and the uses to which they are put. So, a primary principle of library planning should certainly be modernity. In some public buildings we may be able to indulge ourselves with the inefficiency of medieval architecture for the sake of its esthetic appeal. We cannot afford to do this in our libraries.

The very language of library planning is a dead

giveaway. "How large a stackroom do I need?" "How many seats must I have in my reading room?" This is not functional language. This is pattern language.

A library is a place where books are used and where books are stored. That is functional. But books do not have to be used in a reading room; and books do not have to be stored in a stackroom. It is altogether possible that the perfect library will have neither of these, in the sense in which the terms are generally understood. I am not for a moment trying to say that reading rooms and stackrooms have no place in a modern library. I am only asking that we begin at the beginning in our planning, and not in the middle. I am only saying that the first questions to answer are "How is reading best done in this situation, and how are books best stored?" If the honest answer is a reading room and a stackroom, then build a reading room and a stackroom. If the answer be something else, then build something else. Build what is needed, because it is needed; not what is traditional, because it is traditional.

WILLIAM M. RANDALL
Coll. & Rsrch. Libs., Oct. '46

Getting a book should be made as easy as buying a loaf of bread or going to a movie.

E. S. ROBINSON

It is very apparent indeed to me that while there has been much talk, planning, and lip-acceptance of functional architecture for the library, we have failed very signally in almost every instance in doing our best toward meeting this objective.

The profession has reached the stage, where its service potential will be henceforth critically limited by the more monumental, less functional type of building.

KENNETH R. SHAFFER

What we all want to impress upon architects, I think, is that librarians want *functional* buildings.

FREDA F. WALDON

It seems desirable to librarians that in the case of libraries, the architect recognize the problem as functionally peculiar. A library building has its own tasks to do . . . These are major undertakings and justify the expenditure of funds. They require that all else be subordinated to

them. This implies that efficiency be put first, in terms of what the librarian may specify in his program, and that adornment and appearances be such as will not impair efficiency.

ERNEST J. REECE

ABOUT DONORS;

Because the philanthropist who sees his gift of a library building as a memorial is not an inconsiderable factor in this business, it seems clear to me that perhaps this is the point for the architect and the librarian to prepare groundwork of orientation that will make the right kind of building a possibility when gifts of funds and the planning of their expenditure materialize.

KENNETH R. SHAFFER

ABOUT ARCHITECTS;

There has been a very fine development during recent years in the cooperative attitude shown by architects, library trustees, and librarians in realizing that planning a library building requires the joint contribution of all three. Librarians and library trustees have given much more attention to the preparation of a list of requirements for the guidance of architects, and architects have gone to a great deal of trouble to learn the point of view of librarians as to the functional importance of a library plan.

MALCOLM G. WYER

It is seldom taken into consideration that there will be an architect for every building program and that the architect is likely to be a great deal more intelligent, up-to-date, and reasonable than librarians ordinarily think. Our well-known difficulties with our architects arise, too often, because we librarians are not able to analyze and state our program properly, because we act as though we knew more about the architect's business than he does. Of course, there have been, and are, architects who are prima donnas and who are liable to run away with any project they get their hands on. These cases appear to be the exception, not the rule.

WILLIAM H. JESSE and Committee

ABOUT ADULT EDUCATION;

The public library is an integral part of the system of education of the people of this country. . . . We need to define schooling and its objective. One of the great objectives of schooling is to get the people prepared for the use of public

libraries. Our present education is what we have secured since leaving school. Schooling is preparation for education. Libraries are used by adults. We furnish them the means for their education.

ALEXANDER GALT

The organized movement for adult education did not have the expected good results for libraries when it was undertaken some years ago. However, the seeds were sown for a spontaneous growth that has since taken place. Librarians are now giving more emphasis to the educational side of their responsibilities, and expect architects to build with the necessary provisions in constant view.

ANGUS S. MACDONALD

ABOUT PUBLIC UTILITIES;

The public must be supplied with the library services, promptly, efficiently. The library is a public utility quite as much as the electric or gas company. The electric company develops electric light and power, and administers it for the community. The library develops and administers the community's book power. The electric company increases the hours of daily activity of the people. The library increases the mental alertness with which they fill those hours.

DONALD K. CAMPBELL and
CLINTON FOSTER GOODWIN
Wilson Lib. Bull., Jan. '46

"Modular" Library Planning

By Angus Snead Macdonald

Excerpts from "New Possibilities in Library Planning—Proposals for the Library of the Future," in *Library Journal*, Dec. 15, 1945.

MY IDEAL would be a solid and waterproof foundation, stout supporting walls, a weather-proof roof—and no bearing interior partitions. Give the fellow that comes after us a chance to do all the shifting and changing he wants. It certainly will make him happy, and perhaps may be really effective."

—HARRY MILLER LYDENBERG,
Formerly Director,
The New York Public Library.

OBJECTIVES

If a Gallup poll were taken among readers and library staff members to determine the objectives to be reached in our new buildings, these objectives would be rated about as follows:

- (1) Easy and quick access to the books wanted.
- (2) Plenty of good dependable light.
- (3) An abundance of clean, well conditioned air.
- (4) Quiet and the opportunity to read undisturbed.
- (5) Comfortable, convenient furniture.
- (6) Secluded alcoves, carrels or studies for serious work.
- (7) Charming, intimate surroundings, without regimental rows of tables and chairs, for recreational reading.
- (8) Dignified and beautiful architecture for the outside and for the few more important interior spaces that can be fixed in size and location.

UNCERTAINTIES

The future poses many problems and uncertainties. What effect is microfilming going to have on the storage and use of source material, or a flock of Dr. Vannevar Bush's magic desks on our whole library economy? What will be needed to accommodate his "Differential Analyzers" or the other robots that are yet to be conceived? To what extent is visual instruction going to supplant reading? Will there have to be a host of small, insulated rooms for the consultation of sound recordings? Are we going to see the breaking up of large book collections into small, specialized groups directly accessible to the readers interested, while the little-used books are stored more compactly and out of the way (but not the reach) of the readers who might want them only occasionally? Should we provide for more and more carrels, private studies, and offices to take care of the so-far-insatiable demands of research workers, writers and professors? Should we build with the purpose of taking advantage of the increasing opportunities for better lighting, acoustical treatment and air-conditioning? Should we not study the economies of space, particularly vertical space, in every reasonable way, so that a library is not too difficult to alter and administer, and does not too soon become unwieldy in size or height? Should we not also consider that readers' tastes and habits are constantly

changing and that a building must change with them or become obsolete? And, most particularly, how are we going to provide for over-all expansion without having to contend with a meager building scheme and with rooms frozen in size?

These are only a few of the problems which the architect and librarian face when they start to plan a library that will not be obsolescent before it is finished and in need of replacement before it is ten years old. What we really need is some kind of rubber structure that can be inflated and expanded with the floors floating on air and the roof held up by skyhooks—obviously a thing that is beyond present technological resources. However, current resources do permit building more adaptably than has ever yet been achieved, and that without the loss of any essential and without increase in cost.

WHAT IS MODULAR?

A modular system of construction is one wherein the cubage between the exterior walls, foundations and roof is divided into equal rectangular prisms of space, bordered on top and bottom by floors and ceilings and on the vertical edges by structural columns. Aside from the columns, there should be nothing to interfere with the free use of the space except for such things as main stairways, elevators and lavatories. The columns may be spaced equally in both directions, although this is not essential. The spacing may be whatever best suits the site. For reasons of economy and adaptability of plan, however, it is well to keep the horizontal dimensions within the range of about 18 ft. to 24 ft. With such equal modules constructed with great precision and having perfectly flat ceilings, it is possible to rearrange the library at any time with the assurance that the partitions, shelving and other facilities moved from one location to another will always exactly fit the new.

Modulizing has other great advantages, such as permitting the economy of very accurate mass production methods instead of requiring an excessive amount of special planning and tailoring in office, shop and field.

The term "modular" applies to a method and not to any particular dimensions either horizontal or vertical. The horizontal dimensions are made large enough so that the columns will not seriously obstruct the floor space which is otherwise free. Story heights can be made nine, ten, eleven feet, or whatever is desired. Flat ceilings 8 ft. high in the clear are recommended. As the modular floors can be

made comparatively thin, the 8 ft. ceiling results in a story height of 9 ft. to 9 ft. 4 in. This is to be contrasted with the usual 15 ft. or 16 ft. common to most libraries built during the last forty years.

People are used to 8-ft. ceilings in their houses and there is no function of a library that cannot be satisfactorily carried on under such ceilings. A greater height for a spacious effect can be obtained anywhere at any time by omitting the floor panels in one or more modules. But it is unnecessary to disregard the economy and other advantages of the 8-ft. height throughout the building simply to have a great height over a few areas.

The advantages of the 8-ft. ceiling are many. In the first place, the height of most libraries is limited to about three traditional stories above ground, or from 45 ft. to 48 ft. More height means too much stair-climbing, or the provision of enough elevators to take care of peak loads. In the same building height five 9-ft. modular stories can be built, with a net increase of floor space of 35 to 40 per cent.

Small, intimate reading spaces are always in demand and have never been sufficiently supplied in any library. Carrels can occupy a space of 112 cubic feet each, or 120 to 150 cubic feet, which is only one-third to one-tenth as much as that required per reader in a monumentally treated reading room.

Small space divisions, such as carrels, studies, offices and seminars, are easily formed with movable partitions and are better in every way under an 8-ft. ceiling than under a 14-ft. ceiling.

Nine foot height brings floors closer together for cooperative use. It is often desirable to connect related departments intimately in a vertical as well as a horizontal direction by means of an open well.

Light of 35 foot-candles is so adequate that no one working in an interior space will mind remoteness from windows or whether it is day or night. Floors to be covered with sound-deadening materials of light-reflecting colors.

ARCHITECTURE?

How will this modular library look? It will be different from the beautiful examples of the past, but I have no fear that it will not be able to hold its own by comparison on any basis of scoring. Never has the world been provided with more able and better trained architects; never before have architectural resources, both physical and technological, been so rich. As a class architects like new

problems; in fact, they live for them; and I don't think anyone need worry about the charm of the results they will turn out with this new one.

If I have described the kind of building librarians like, all they have to do is put their needs and specifications up to their architects and cease to worry so much about the future. I am sure the designs and plans they get will not only be functionally adequate

but also freshly beautiful, interesting and charming. I think we are entering into the greatest architectural era the world has even known, and I believe that it will be known to history as the American Era. I also believe that libraries, instead of trailing the procession of progress, will take the lead, consistent with their position as sources of the knowledge whereby culture and civilization advance.

The Architect Says:

By John Paul Jones, A.I.A.

Excerpts from an address before the annual convention of the
American Library Association, San Francisco, July, 1947.

NEVER, since the Carnegie era, has there been so much actual and potential interest in new library construction. . . . Efforts in the past have been somewhat barren of results because of official and public apathy. Today the public takes a vital interest in any enterprise which promises to meet the need for unbiased and authoritative information. This need is something far more fundamental than a desire for factual knowledge. It is part of the universal longing for peace and security, a sort of spiritual guidance in the tangle of social, political and ethical concepts that confuse us today as we stand at the threshold of the atomic age.

OBJECTIVES VS. STANDARDS:

Objectives are more important than standards or precepts because objectives are thought-provoking and lead to creative effort, but standards are thought-crystallizing and tend toward stereotyped results. Dr. John Burchard defines the modern architectural approach in these words: ". . . today the architect must first of all be an interviewer, an objective recorder of needs, an understanding examiner of techniques."

LOCATION:

All too frequently our public libraries have been placed in a civic center, as they have done it here in San Francisco; or in the middle of a park, as we find it in many smaller cities and towns. Now such an arrangement may be satisfactory as an element of an architectural composition, or as a civic tour-de-force but from a library service point of view, the determining site factor should always be convenience to the user, which generally means close to, or even in the midst of the community shopping center.

As cities increase in size, however, traffic congestion tends to keep people out of the central business district if they can satisfy their needs elsewhere, which brings us face to face with a new and impelling force in city development,—the process of decentralization. . . . Our town planners are making brave plans for controlling this decentralizing process and turning it into new civic patterns of beauty and good living. But one thing appears certain: the process will continue whether controlled or not.

Library-wise, this decentralizing tendency will bear close watching. Certainly branch buildings and county library programs in the satellite suburbs are bound to assume new importance. Conversely, the conventional requirements for central library buildings may come in for drastic revision.

FLEXIBILITY:

Mr. Saarinen would be likely to emphasize another characteristic of our age,—the acceleration of the rate of change. Some types of buildings, such as factories, shops and even schools, although planned with great care, are scarcely completed before they are outmoded. . . . There is one phenomenon of acceleration, however, that is peculiar to libraries,—the ever-increasing rate at which book collections are growing. I know of no library construction project in which inadequate stacks is not the most pressing reason for considering a building or an addition. . . . From the planning standpoint, it seems obvious that buildings should be so placed on their sites and their bookstacks so arranged that expansion is easily and logically possible. . . . The use of modular units in a building is not new in itself, but Mr. MacDonald's application of the modular principle to the bookstack frees this hitherto rigid ele-

ment of the library from its shackles. Several college libraries, including Princeton and Iowa, are incorporating the modular idea into their new plans, and some of its advantages merit careful consideration in connection with proposed larger public library buildings, especially if we are to see large sections of the stacks opened to the public, which I know is in the thinking of some librarians. But may I warn you,—make *big* plans, for no matter how much resilience and flexibility we may manage to build into our libraries of the future, these advantages will disappear the minute your building becomes overcrowded.

ADULT EDUCATION:

The business of making a living is taking less and less of our waking hours. . . . How this leisure time is spent has become a matter of concern to the community as well as the individual. Its misuse may encompass the full span of life from juvenile delinquency to the bleak monotony of an aimless old age. On the other hand, purposeful use of a small part of this spare time can unlock the world's finest treasures of wisdom and enjoyment.

You people have a mission—to acquaint people with the joy of hours spent with good books; but here you have a selling job to do. Like the department store, your customers must be lured inside the doors and be satisfied with what they find there. . . . The most successful feature of the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore is the achievement of a good merchandising situation. You see the wares tastefully displayed in show windows along the main facade; the wide portal invites you in; you enter on the level from the sidewalk without climbing a single step; and once inside, the whole plan opens up before you with most-used departments on the main floor where you can see at a glance where to find what you came for. Therein is the essence of any good plan—simple, direct, and obvious circulation.

DESIGN:

Thanks be to merciful Providence that the day of imitative architecture and its clichés is over, and we architects no longer find it necessary to drape the fronts of libraries with classic columns, heavy cornices, and other encrustations that cost too much, cut the light of day out of the rooms within, and scare the customer away by their cold "court-house" formality. And let us never perpetrate an-

other monumental flight of outside steps on the pretext of giving the building a proper setting, or of getting more light into the basement! Nor on any other pretext!

Today an architect relies on form, proportion, good scale and, above all, good sense to achieve simple facades that are at once dignified and inviting. Within the building also, the chilly grandeur of marble gives way to less ostentatious and more friendly materials. Elaborate cast plaster ornamentation becomes plain wall surfaces, in some places vibrant with soft color, in others relieved by touches of sculptural or mural art, subdued to form a quiet background against which the books themselves may display their own beauty.

THE APPEARANCE OF BOOKS:

Now that you have assurances that my profession intends to make a sensible approach to beauty in the libraries of the future, may I chide your profession a bit on its attitude toward another obvious esthetic consideration? I have said that the interior architectural effect of a library should be subordinated to the beauty of the books themselves; but where is any beauty in those red and green and yellow buckram or canvas materials that you hide books inside of when the original bindings break down? Frankly, they made a book hideous and unsanitary, not to mention the way they blot out the individuality of a piece of literature. . . . At least let us have three or four different fonts of type for the new title and Dewey number impressions. . . . Manufacturers have given us liquid plastics, called floor seals. . . . They would be glad to cooperate in producing a similar plastic treatment for book covers.

AUDIO-VISUAL:

Dr. Verne Knudsen, Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Southern California, stated without equivocation that in a few years 80 to 90 per cent of formal instruction at the college level will be by audio-visual methods, and he advised us to plan and equip our classrooms and lecture halls . . . with every facility for such a teaching program.

The library will have to recognize the trend by acquiring, storing, and making available recordings and talking pictures.

Your reading rooms will someday give way to listening and viewing rooms.

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COLLEGE LIBRARIES—ARCHIVES BUILDINGS SUPPLEMENT

A supplement to this Reference Guide, providing material on college and university libraries and archives buildings, will be published in a subsequent issue of the BULLETIN.

DIRECTORY OF STATE LIBRARY EXTENSION AGENCIES

In many states there are library extension agencies operating under various titles and with varying relationships to their state governments. In some states they wield considerable authority in matters of finance and planning. Regardless of its degree of authority it is advisable for the architect to seek the aid and counsel of the state agency during the early stages of any public library project.

NOTE: Agencies are located either in the state capitol (or state house) or in a state library building except as otherwise indicated.

Alabama Public Library Service Division, Department of Archives and History: State Director, Mrs. Lois Rainer Green, Montgomery 5.

Arkansas State Library Commission: Executive Secretary, Leta Sowder, War Memorial Building, Little Rock.

California State Library: State Librarian, Mabel R. Gillis; Field Representative, Thelma Reid, Sacramento 9.

Colorado State Library: Assistant Librarian (in charge of extension), Denver 2.

Connecticut Public Library Committee, State Board of Education: Secretary, Katherine H. Wead, State Office Building, Hartford.

Delaware. Library Commission for State: Librarian, Mrs. Bernice W. Hammond, Dover.

Florida State Library Board: Acting Director of Extension, Mrs. Selma Morgan, Tallahassee.

Georgia Division of Textbook and Library Service, Department of Education: Assistant Director, Sarah L. Jones, State Office Building; Assistant Director in charge of Rural Public Library Service, Lucile Nix; Librarian, Library Extension Service, Beverly Wheatcroft, 92 Mitchell Street, S.W., Atlanta 3.

Idaho State Traveling Library: Librarian, Zada L. Wines, Boise.

Illinois State Library: Assistant State Librarian, Helene H. Rogers; Director Regional Library Service, Paul A. T. Noon; Chief, Extension Service, Dorothy Hiatt, Centennial Memorial Building, Springfield.

Indiana State Library: Librarian, Harold F.

Brigham; Chief, Extension Division, Hazel B. Warren, Indianapolis 4.

Iowa State Traveling Library: Librarian, Blanche A. Smith, Historical Building, Des Moines 19.

Kansas State Library: Librarian, Louise McNeal; Secretary, Traveling Libraries Commission, Henrietta Alexander, Topeka.

Kentucky Library Extension Division, Department of Library and Archives: Director, Francis Jane Porter, Old Capitol, Frankfort.

Louisiana Library Commission: Executive Secretary, Essae M. Culver, Baton Rouge 1.

Maine State Library: State Librarian, Theresa C. Stuart, Augusta.

Maryland Division of Library Extension, Department of Education: Director, Helen M. Clark, 400 Cathedral St., Baltimore 1.

Massachusetts Division of Public Libraries, Department of Education: Library Adviser, Catherine M. Yerxa; General Secretary, V. Genevieve Boisclair, Department of Education Building, 200 Newbury St., Boston 33.

Michigan State Library: State Librarian, Mrs. Loleta Dawson Fyan; State Aid Director, Eudocia Stratton; Trustee Consultant, Evelyn L. Parks, State Office building, Lansing 13; Library Consultant, Upper Peninsula, Mrs. Zona K. Williams, City Hall, Marquette; Library Consultant, Lower Peninsula, Jeannette Johnson, State Highway Department Building, Cadillac.

Minnesota Library Division, Department of Education: Director of Libraries, Lee F. Zimmerman, State Office Building, St. Paul 1.

Mississippi Library Commission: Executive Secretary, Mrs. Eunice Eley, New Capitol, Jackson.

Missouri Library Commission: Executive Secretary, Kathryn P. Mier, State Office Building, Jefferson City.

Montana State Library Extension Commission: Secretary, Ellen Torggrimson, care University of Montana Library, Missoula.

Nebraska Public Library Commission: Executive Secretary, Clara B. Johnson, Lincoln.

Nevada State Library: State Librarian, E. Charles D. Marriage, Carson City.

- New Hampshire State Library: State Librarian, Mrs. Mildred P. McKay; Assistant State Librarian, in charge of Extension Division, Catherine Pratt, 20 Park St., Concord.
- New Jersey Public and School Library Services Bureau (Division of State Library, Archives and History), Department of Education: Head, Roger McDonough, State House Annex, Trenton 7.
- New Mexico State Library Commission: Executive Secretary and Director, State Library Extension Service, Mrs. Irene S. Peck, Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe.
- New York Division of Adult Education and Library Extension: State Librarian, Charles F. Gosnell (traveling libraries, book information, and individual book service), State Education Building, Albany 1.
- North Carolina Library Commission: Secretary and Director, H. Marjorie Beal, State Library Building, Raleigh.
- North Dakota State Library Commission: Secretary and Director, Lillian E. Cook, Liberty Memorial Building, Bismarck.
- Ohio State Library: State Librarian, Walter T. Brahm; State Library Organizer, Mildred W. Sandoe, State Office Building, Columbus 15.
- Oklahoma Library Commission: Secretary, Mrs. J. R. Dale, Oklahoma City 5.
- Oregon State Library: State Librarian, Eleanor S. Stephens, Salem.
- Pennsylvania State Library: Director, Alfred D. Keator, Educational Building, Harrisburg.
- Rhode Island State Library: State Librarian, Grace M. Sherwood, Providence 2.
- South Carolina State Library Board: Executive Secretary, Estellene P. Walker, South Carolina National Bank Building Annex, Columbia 6.
- South Dakota Free Library Commission: Secretary and Director, Mercedes B. MacKay, State House Annex, Pierre.
- Tennessee Division of Libraries, Department of Education: Director, Martha M. Parks, Nashville 3.
- Texas Library and Historical Commission, State Library: Librarian, Francis H. Henshaw, Austin 11.
- Utah Library Division, Department of Public Instruction: Director of Libraries, N. J. Barlow, Salt Lake City 1.
- Vermont Free Public Library Commission: Secretary, Dorothy Randolph, State Library Building, Montpelier.
- Virginia State Library: State Librarian, Randolph W. Church; Head, Extension Division, Ernestine Grafton, Richmond 19.
- Washington State Library: Librarian, Mrs. Carma R. Zimmerman, Olympia.
- West Virginia Library Commission Executive Secretary, Dora Ruth Parks, West Virginia University, Morgantown.
- Wisconsin Free Library Commission: Secretary, Clarence B. Lester, Madison 2.
- Wyoming State Library: State Librarian, Mary A. McGrath, Cheyenne.

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DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS, PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLISHERS NOTED IN BIBLIOGRAPHY

A.L.A. Bulletin

The American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago 11, Ill.
Monthly. Single copy—25c.

A.L.A. Handbook

Annual. Issued as a number of the **A.L.A. Bulletin**.
\$2. Directory of officers, members, committees, boards, national associations, state associations, accredited library schools, library clubs, library extension agencies.

A.L.A. Proceedings

Annual. Issued as a number of the **A.L.A. Bulletin**.
\$2.

American Archivist

Society of American Archivists, 450 Ahnaip Street, Menasha, Wisconsin.

The American School and University

The American School Publishing Corp., 470 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York.

Architectural Forum

350 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York

The Architectural Record

119 West 40th Street, New York, New York.

Beaux Arts Institute of Design Bulletin

304 East 44th Street, New York 17, New York

Catholic Library World

University of Scranton, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

College and Research Libraries

American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago 11, Ill.

Grafton & Company

51 Great Russell Street, London W.C. 1, England.

Harvard University Library Notes

Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Journal of The American Institute of Architects

1741 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Journal of Engineering Education

John Wiley & Sons, 440 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York.

Monthly exc. July and Aug. Publ. by American Society for Engineering Education. \$3 per yr. Single copies—50c.

Library Association Record

The Association, Chaucer House, Malet Place, London W.C. 1, England.

Library Journal

R. R. Bowker Company, 62 West 45th Street, New York, New York.

Library Quarterly

University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Pacific Northwest Library Association Quarterly

Ruth E. Hale, ed. University of Washington Library, Seattle, Washington.

Progressive Architecture—Pencil Points

330 West 42nd Street, New York 18, New York.

The Pioneer

Remington Rand, Inc., 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, New York.

Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Journal

57 Queen Street West, Toronto 1, Canada.

The Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects

66 Portland Place, London W. 1, England.

Special Libraries

Special Libraries Association, 31 East Tenth Street, New York, New York.

Wilson Library Bulletin

The H. W. Wilson Company, 950-972 University Avenue, New York, New York.

Technical and Research News

RESEARCH ON MODULAR COORDINATION

The Office of Technical Services of the U. S. Department of Commerce has included in its research projects a contract with Modular Service Association, of Boston, Massachusetts.

This will permit the augmenting of the service rendered by MSA in its efforts to bring to the building public and the construction industry generally the benefits which are inherent in the general adoption and application of the principles of Modular Coordination, as applied to the materials and products employed in construction.

MODULAR COORDINATION AND THE VA HOSPITAL PROGRAM

In his address at a session of the recent Convention of The Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Mr. H. B. Zackrisson, Chief of Specifications and Estimating Branch, Engineering Division of Military Construction of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, in referring to the planning and construction of the extensive Veterans' Hospital Program, said:

"The Chief of Engineers and his staff have, for their part, considered the various ways by which our total costs of construction might be reduced. One of these was the use of modular products and the application of the principles of modular design to Veterans' Administration Hospitals.

"The standardization of building products to sizes that will permit of dimensioning in even inches is something for which all those who work on the drawing board should be profoundly thankful. As one who has, I don't know of anything much more provoking than trying to get a long line of fractions to add up to the proper total. Such fractional dimensions are a prolific source of error.

"The Chief of Engineers is therefore recommending to all architects engaged under our supervision on the design of Veterans Administration hospitals, that they carefully consider the use of Modular design after a careful survey of materials in the general area of the particular hospital and its effect on their design and schedule of completion. We are of the belief that its use will ultimately be of as much benefit to you and to your future clients as its use will be to us. I do wish to emphasize, however, that we will not require that architects use Modular design on hospitals under our supervision, but that we will continue to encourage its use."

CHANGES IN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE PERSONNEL

Mr. Charles G. Ramsey, of the New York Chapter, has been appointed by President Orr, as a representative of The Institute on ASA Committee A62, The Coordination of the Dimensions of Building Materials and Equipment.

Mr. Ramsey replaces Mr. Henry S. Churchill who tendered his resignation after serving since the formation of the Committee in 1939.

Mr. Charles C. Platt, of the New York Chapter, has resigned as the representative of The Institute on ASA Committee A51,—Building Code Requirements for Fire Protection and Fire Resistance. Mr. Lessing W. Williams of the New York Chapter has been appointed to succeed Mr. Platt.

NEW PRODUCERS' COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Producers' Council announces the following new members and their National Representatives in The Council:

Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, 38 South Dearborn St., Chicago 3, Ill. H. C. Delzell, Managing Director.

Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association, 60 East 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y. H. Leigh Whitelaw, Managing Director.

Metal Products Corporation, 807 N. W. 20th St., Miami 37, Fla. (Regional Member), John D. F. Foksett, Treasurer, John R. Moulton, Sales Manager, Alternate.

SAFETY

CARBON TETRACHLORIDE

The potential hazard to life inherent in carbon tetrachloride, and the cleaning compounds employing the same, should be better understood by those using this well known liquid for fire fighting or cleaning purposes.

As modified for use in vaporizing liquid fire extinguishers carbon tetrachloride is safe against freezing down to a temperature of -50°F , and practically harmless to most materials.

It does, however, involve danger to the user when used for fire extinguishment in confined spaces or small unventilated rooms as the vapor generated by heat is a powerful anesthetic and poison, similar to chloroform.

When used on fires generating high temperatures there is also the possibility that even more poisonous gases, such as chlorine, hydrochloric acid, and phosphene may be formed.

The breathing of the fumes arising from liquid carbon tetrachloride, or cleaning fluids containing the same, if absorbed in sufficient amounts may prove fatal.

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR TUBES

The danger to life from carbon monoxide poison-

ing has too often been demonstrated by the death of those exposed to this difficult-to-detect gas.

The usual methods of detecting the presence of this gas have involved more or less laboratory procedure, and consequent loss of time.

An important advance was made, during the war, by the National Bureau of Standards in the invention and development of a carbon monoxide detector tube which has been made available for peace-time application, through the sale of the Bureau's equipment to the Mines Safety Appliance Company, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The tubes are in demand for use in mines, garages, and various industrial plants and by health departments.

This simple and comparatively inexpensive device will indicate by a color as little as one part of dangerous gas to 500,000 parts of air.

X-RAY PROTECTION PROGRAM

The National Bureau of Standards has undertaken a most important and much needed program for determining the effectiveness of concrete as a protective barrier against million-volt wide-beam X-rays the use of which is increasing in medicine and industry.

At the present time wall thicknesses and the most desirable types of protective construction are not definitely known.

Special equipment at the Bureau will facilitate this research a basic objective of which is to obtain data from which the maximum degree of protection at the lowest cost of installation may be determined.

FLAMMABLE VS. INFLAMMABLE

Apparent inconsistencies in the English language frequently lead to misinterpretation.

The Greater New York Safety Council reports that many housewives have understood the word "flammable" to mean "non-flammable," and, for this reason, have been careless in the handling of certain liquids which are easily ignited.

The confusion arises from the belief that the prefix "in" always means "not."

To avoid this misinterpretation National organizations interested in fire prevention standards, such as the NFPA and ASTM, are avoiding the use of the word "flammable."

Technical Bibliography

NEW STANDARDS AVAILABLE

The National Bureau of Standards announces the availability of the following; copies of which may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, at the prices indicated.

Simplified Practice Recommendation R225-47. Asphalt Tile.

A useful Standard of practice in production, distribution, and use, with schedules of colors, and dimensions of tile and type, color, and dimensions for cover base. 5 cents.

Simplified Practice Recommendation—R179-46 (Supersedes R179-42). Structural Insulating Board (Wood or Other Vegetable Fiber).

A listing of standard dimensions and finishes. 5 cents.

Commercial Standard CS138-47, Insect Wire Screening.

Describes the nomenclature, definitions and general requirements for commercial standard insect wire screening of galvanized steel wire, bronze or copper. 5 cents.

Commercial Standard CS20-47. Staple Vitreous China Plumbing Fixtures. (Fourth Edition, Effective July 12, 1947).

Pending the printing of this revision a mimeographed copy (TS-4407) will be furnished upon request to A. S. Best, Division of Trade Standards, U. S. National Bureau of Standards, Washington 25, D. C.

This is the fourth edition of this comprehensive standard which includes the nomenclature, definitions, grading rules and detailed requirements for various types of vitreous china plumbing fixtures.

National Directory of Commodity Specifications.

Reference was made, in BULLETIN NO. 2, of The Department of Technical Services, to the above document (Miscellaneous Publication M178), compiled by the Division of Codes and Specifications of the National Bureau of Standards and containing in its more than 1300 pages an authoritative listing of more than 35000 nationally recognized specifications and standards in general use, with the names of the purchasing agencies of the Federal Government and trade associations or technical groups that formulate or sponsor recognized standards, specifications, codes, and similar documents for general and technical use.

The price of this Directory, which was issued in 1945

and is obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, is \$4 a copy.

A 322 page cloth bound SUPPLEMENT to Miscellaneous Document M178, to bring the material as published in 1945 up to date, is now available and copies may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents at a cost of \$2.25 each.

Subdivision Regulations and Protective Covenants.

In its Technical Bulletin No. 8, The Urban Land Institute, 1737 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C., discusses in detail the use, application, and value of subdivision regulations and protective covenants as related to land development.

The inclusion of legal citations, sample clauses, and a selected bibliography referring to subdivision regulations and protective covenants adds to the informative value of the subject matter.

Copies may be obtained from The Urban Land Institute, at a cost of \$1 each.

Bibliography On Panel (Radiant) Heating.

The Committee on Research of The American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, as a preliminary to its attack on problems in panel or radiant heating, instructed the Society's Research Laboratory to review and abstract the more important technical articles published on this subject during the past few years.

As a result the Committee has presented a ten page mimeographed list of American and foreign technical papers, books, bulletins and manuals covering a wide variety of topics related to this general subject which should be of practical and technical value to those in any way interested in this type of heating.

Hot Water Heating and Radiant Heating and Cooling.

F. E. Giesecke, C. E. Ph.D. Technical Book Co., P. O. Box 62, Austin Texas, \$4 a copy with discount of 10% on orders for two or more to same address.

In this cloth bound volume of 283 pages Dr. Giesecke, a past President of A.S.H.&V.E., and former head of the Division of Engineering Research, The University of Texas, has described in unusually simple terms the principles applying to various types of hot-water heating and radiant heating and radiant cooling systems, with helpful formulas and rules for their practical application in the planning of heating and cooling requirements.

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